



Misaki Jun

箕崎 准

サード・アタック

Hundred : Third Attack

サード・アタック 6

[hundred]

大熊猫介 (ミトロプラス)  
Illustration

# Hundred

## vol.6: Third Attack

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[Novel Updates](#)

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Illustration

大熊猫介

(ニトロプラス)

サード・アタック

# フンドレッド

6

[hundred]  
Hundred: Dual Act





















それじゃ、行きましょわよ  
**エミリア**

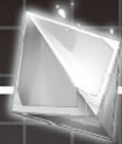
うん、わかってるよ、  
**クレア**

背中を合わせたエミリアとクレア。  
お互いの顔を見て微笑み合い、  
揃って敵に銃口を向けた。  
闘いはさらに激しさを増していく。





# CHARACTER



## 如月ハヤト

武芸科一年。皇国ヤマト出身。  
歴代第一位のハンドレッドの  
反応数値を持つ新入生。



## エミリア・ハーミット

武芸家一年。ハヤトのクラスメイト。  
その正体はグーテンブルグ王国のお  
姫様。



## クレア・ハーヴェイ

武芸科三年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
リトルガーデンの艦長であり、  
学生全てを束ねる生徒会長。



## 如月カレン

ハヤトの妹。幼いころから病気がち  
だったが、この度リトルガーデン中  
等部への編入を果たす。



## レイティア・サンテミリオン

武芸科一年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
フリッツの幼なじみ。



## フリッツ・グランツ

武芸科一年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
武芸科男子寮の一年生代表。



## リディ・スタインバーグ

武芸科二年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
リトルガーデン生徒会・副会長の一人。  
生徒会、選抜隊に誇りを持っている。



## エリカ・キャンドル

武芸科二年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
リトルガーデン生徒会・副会長の一人。  
クレアに対して崇拜にも近い感情を抱く。



## メイメイ

シャーロットの助手。  
ヤマトの文化に興味がある模様。



## シャーロット・ディマンディウス

リトルガーデンの技術主任。  
年齢不詳。





**柏木ミハル**

カレンの担当看護師。巨乳。

**クリス・シュタインベルト**

中等部二年。  
リトルガーデンの若き主任  
戦略分析官。

**スフレ・クリアレール**

霧島サクラのマネージャー。  
元・シャーロットの同僚で  
技術者という過去がある。

**霧島サクラ**

圧倒的な人気 & 実力を誇る世界的  
歌姫。ツヴァイ諸島でライブを行  
うにあたって、ハヤトを専属ボ  
ディーガードに指名してきた。

**リザ・ハーヴェイ**

名門ハーヴェイ家の末子。とある  
事件がきっかけで、人類最初の感  
染体（ヴァリエント）となってしまう。

**ジュダル・ハーヴェイ**

クレアの兄にして、リトルガーデン  
を含めた、巨大民間軍事会社《ワ  
ルスラン》の実質的な支配者。

**ノア・シェルダン**

武芸科一年。リベリア出身。退学させられそうな  
ところを、雪梅と共にハヤトに助けられる。ヤマ  
ト系リベリア人のため、ハヤトとも話が合う？

**劉雪梅(リュウ・シュエメイ)**

武芸科一年。秦帝国出身。  
友人のノアと退学させられそうな  
ところをハヤトに助けられた。

**クラウディア・ローエッティ**

ブリタニア統合軍に所属する、ゲーデ  
ンブルグの良家のお嬢様。同郷のエ  
ミールとは幼なじみのような間柄。

**アルフォンス・ブリュスタット**

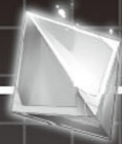
武芸科一年。フランソワ共和国出  
身。ハヤトたちと同じ寮で暮らす  
ちょっと太った青年。

# CHARACTER





# CHARACTER



## レベッカ・マーティン

カレンの中等部の同級生。  
南リベリア生まれ。



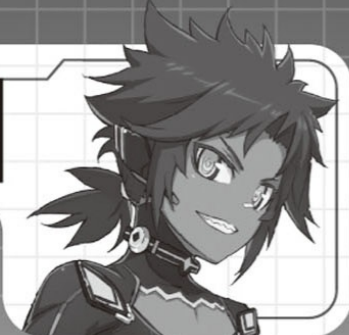
## ウミノ・アオイ

カレンの隣の席の少女。  
ヤマト系二世のリベリア人。



## クロヴァン

ハンドレッドとその元となるヴァリアブルス  
トーンを狙う密<sup>ハンター</sup>獵者。現在はネサット、ナク  
リーとともにリトルガーデンに所属している。



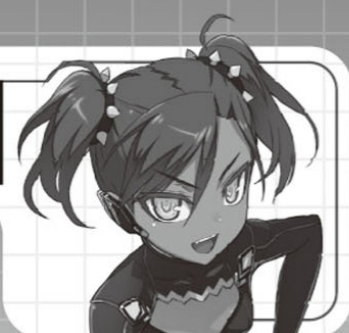
## ネサット

クロヴァンに従順な密<sup>ハンター</sup>獵者。目に  
ハンドレッドが埋め込まれているら  
しい……？



## ナクリー

密<sup>ハンター</sup>獵者三人組みの妹分。かつて武芸者  
に対して、敵意をもっていた。<sup>スレイヤー</sup>



## ヴィタリー・トゥイニャーノフ

かつてワルスラーン社で働いていた天  
才技術者。先のリトルガーデン襲撃事件  
の首謀者であり、現在は行方不明。



## ダグラス・ウェンズ

エミリアと同じブリタニア連邦に属  
する、ウェンズ王国の第3王子。エ  
ミリアの元婚約者。



## セリヴィア・ノートルダム・パヴロ三世

一国の王と同等の権力を持つ<sup>ビュリタリア</sup>《神聖教会》  
の教皇。超巨乳。



## 剣崎トウカ

ハヤトの師匠であるリュウセイの  
姪。一方的にハヤトをライバル視  
している。



## 剣崎リュウセイ

ハヤトの剣道の師匠。かつてサベ  
ージと闘った過去をもつ。



## ハンドレッド

触れた人間によって様々な武器の形状に変化することから、百武装—ハンドレッドと名付けられた特殊な石。武芸者と呼ばれる、特別な者だけが使用出来る。地球上に落下した隕石から削り出された「ヴァリアブルストーン」と呼ばれる赤い鉱石が原材料。



## 第一次遭遇（ファーストアタック）

宇宙より飛来した巨大な隕石が南極に落下すると共にサベージが現れた事件のこと。その際に人類によって殲滅されたと思われていたが、それから三年後に再びサベージが出現する、「第二次遭遇（セカンドアタック）」が起きてしまう。

## 海上学園都市艦リトルガーデン

対侵略者（サベージ）用の拠点として、武装兵器、ハンドレッドの研究開発と、それを用いて戦う武芸者の育成のために、開発、製造され、運用されている、自走式の巨大空母。全長4000m、全幅1000m。「ターミナル区画」、「ミリタリー区画」、「ファミリー区画」の三つに分かれている。

## リトルガーデン生徒会

リトルガーデンの初等部、中等部、高等部普通科、武芸者を育成するための高等部武芸科、全ての学生を束ねる事実上の最高権力機関。代表はクレア・ハーヴェイ。

## セレクションズ（選抜隊）

リトルガーデン生徒会が指揮するエリート武芸者集団。武芸科の生徒の中から選抜され、学生ながらボディーガード任務やサベージとの交戦に派遣されることもある。一年の中からは、ハヤトにエミール、フリッツとレイティアの四人が選抜されている。

## ヴァリアブルスーツ

武芸者がサベージとの抗戦の際に着用するスーツ。ハンドレッドの元となっているヴァリアブルストーンが繊維の中に混ぜ込まれており、ハンドレッドと同じように、エナジーに反応して形状が変化する。

## 武芸者（スレイヤー）

ハンドレッドを用いてサベージと戦う者を指す。なお、ハンドレッドは隕石落下時に第二次性徴を迎えていなかった、限られた者にしか反応しないため、その構成は学生をはじめとした子供たちが中心である。

## PDA(Private Digital Assistant)

海上学園都市艦リトルガーデンで暮らす全ての者が所有している薄型の携帯端末。身分証明証にもなる。

## 皇国ヤマト

ユーリシア大陸の東に位置している小さな島国。如月ハヤトの出身国。その歴史は長く、国民は和の伝統を重んじて暮らしている。武芸者の数は多くは無いが、それぞれの能力は高く、空専用装甲を使わずとも浮遊出来る者が多い。

## 神聖教会（ピューリタリア）

世界で一番多くの信徒を誇る教団。  
現教皇はセリヴィア・ノートルダム・パウロ三世。









## サベージ

南極大陸に落下した巨大な隕石と共に、宇宙の彼方より飛来した、人類を襲う謎の異種生命体の基本形。鋼のように硬い皮膚と黄色い模様、ギロリと動く大きな双眸に二本の触覚、鋭い牙に多くの脚を持ち、腕には大きなハサミを装備。通常型（ノーマルタイプ）の全長は五メートル程度。さらに十メートル程や十五メートル以上のタイプも存在し、それぞれ弩弓型（ラージタイプ）、超弩弓型（トレンタタイプ）と呼称される。



## 飛龍型（ドラゴンタイプ）サベージ

秦帝国をベースキャンプとして行われた《籠の中の鳥作戦》の最中に、湖の中から突然現れた、龍型のサベージ。超弩弓型と同程度の巨体を持つ。《第一次遭遇》以前——あるいは有史以前に地球上に飛来していた可能性をシャーロットは示唆している。



## 人造型（レプリカント）サベージ

ヴィタリーがサベージの核や鋼殻、ヴァリアブルストーンを利用してつくりだした人造のサベージ。通常型よりも一回りほど小さく、目も一つしかない。二本の触覚が存在しなければ、本来どのサベージも頭部に持つ《核》も存在せず、内部に隠蔽されている。なお、身体の模様は黄色ではなく赤。



## 雀蜂型（ホーネットタイプ）サベージ

人造型と同じく、ヴィタリーがつくりだしたサベージのまがいもの。身体の模様も人造型と同じく赤で、核も体内に隠蔽されており、目も一つ。全長は五〇センチ程度で、名前の通り雀蜂のような形状をしている。二枚の羽で飛行可能。尖った二本の腕と、尾に備えた鋭い針で攻撃してくる。



# Prologue

It was the next day after the battle between the third Prince of the Kingdom of Wenz, Douglas Edward Wenz, and his fiancée, the third princess of the Kingdom of Gudenburg, Emilia Gudenburg, and Kisaragi Hayato, who was Emilia's childhood friend.

Pope Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, was returning to the Vatican from the Kingdom of Gudenburg.

The palace which is located adjacent to St. Peter's Cathedral is her residence.

– It looks like it is earlier than expected, but it seems that the time has come.

Muttered Serivia, as she was looking at the twinkling night sky from the window located in her bedroom.

She doesn't like to wear thick clothes when going to bed. That's why today's night clothes are negligee, the same as that night on Gudenburg.

Then, she turns her eyes off from the window and direct her sight to the bed. But then, *TAP TAP*, some footsteps were approaching. And then *BATAN*, the double door gates are opened.

– Pope-sama, something terrible has happened!

Two girls wearing black monk's clothes that seemed to be easy to move around because the skirt was short, rushed into the room from the corridor. Their names were Marcia and Luka.

Both of them, who looked exactly the same, are Serivia's followers.

– Both of you, calm down.

Serivia says to the two people who are out of breath, and then continues.

– It is about the <<Third Encounter>> *Third Attack*, is not it?

– Serivia-sama, have you predicted this!?

Marsha opened her eyes wide open when listening to Serivia's answer.

Likewise, Luca has a surprised expression on her face.



– That is correct, you might say.

Serivia smiled with a grin and then asked to the two of them.

– So then, how many Savages are?

– At the present time, it is estimated that their numbers may be three hundred, or even more.

It is Luka that answered. Then, Marcia said.

– Because of this crisis being global, the United Nations seems to be demanding to all the members of ‘Selections’ to assemble.

– Understood. Then communicate that I will also participate in the assembly.

– I will do as you say.

– Is this all that you needed to say?

– Yes.

Replies Luka, who bowed her head.

– We are deeply sorry for coming here on your day off.

Marcia also lowered her head, at the time that was trying to overlap her voice.\*

\*TN: it appears that a “Ruko” bowered her head, but I think this was an error that the editor didn’t fix.

– Do not worry. My thanks for your report. Good night.

Serivia came near to Marcia and Luka, and then kissed them in their forehead.

— We are very thankful of your kindness.

After they bowed once again and their voices sounded as one, they went out of the room with a very happy smile on their faces.

After she sent off their figures, Serivia approached once again to the side of the window, and muttered as she is turning her eyes to the outside view. A beautiful moon floats in the night sky.

– ...around three hundred, it is not that considerable.

This number, it keeps a constant since it is the same as the <<Second Encounter>> *Second Attack*. Besides, unlike that time, there are Slayers now. Even if it is the same as to what happened ten years ago, only a city or two will be destroyed, as this will not be a battle that can bet the fate of the earth.

– ...nonetheless, I cannot act with negligence.

I do not yet know what type will come, so it is hard to grasp the whole picture. This might have the possibility to trigger a <<Fourth Encounter>> *Fourth Attack*.

– Resources are necessary, but we absolutely must prevent the day that will be the end of mankind. It is indispensable for the humanity to overcome the Savage.

While watching the moon, Serivia muttered.

In short, it is about balance.

Tilt the balance slightly towards your objective, while taking the harmony of the world.

For that one reason, and just that one, you can't get it by striking a stone\*.

**\*TN: This is a reference to the Go game: “*fuseki o utsu*”**

Serivia walks away from the window, going towards her bed.

– Now, how exactly is **that** going to move?

# Chapter 1: Third Encounter *Return* Counterattack Meeting

The moment when the plane leaves the runway, the whole body is under a lot of G force, so the back is pressed against the chair. A feeling similar to that had been ongoing all the time.

Cutting through the wind with the whole body while advancing through the sky. There's no walls, there's no ceiling. Being free, just like a bird, is what Kisaragi Hayato has been doing.

<<External Armament>> *Outer* and <<Air Battle Armor>> *Air Ride*.

It is one of the new weapons of Little Garden against the forthcoming *Third Attack*.

This was supposed to be the final practice for Hayato. It is what is called a sham battle.

The place is the opposite deck part of Little Garden. It is over the coastal sand beach behind the school building that belongs to the martial arts department.

The wide sea is reflected in Hayato's sight.

He can also see the whole Little Garden, as well as the city of Sangria.

[Let's go, Hayato!]

While Hayato is enjoying the surrounding scenery, he heard a woman's voice through the radio function of his Vital Ring. Then Hayato looks towards the young lady who emitted that voice. It is Hayato's classmate and childhood friend Emilia Hermit, who's also training with the *Air Ride* as part of this sham battle. She is floating about a hundred meters ahead and wears an *Air Ride*, which is the same *Outer* than Hayato, above her pure white Variable Suit.

– Yeah, come anytime!

Hayato grasps <<Swallow in Flight>> *Hien* tightly with both of his hands.



The function of the *Air Ride* worn by this couple does not change. Apart from the color, which one is painted in black and the other one in white, there is one difference. In the hands of Hayato is *Hien*, whereas Emilia has eight floating turrets around her *Air Ride*. Those turrets were created by her Innocence type Hundred <<All Covered in Fog>> *Arms Shroud*.

[If that's the case, then I'll go without reservation. It will be better that you don't hold back too, Hayato]

– Got it.



By saying that, it is clearly evident that Emilia is going to come all out. Hayato

knows that such is her personality. That's why, of course, he can't go easy on her. This can turn into something big if he does such a thing.

[Well then, let's begin the match]

Emilia deployed all of her eight floating turrets around Hayato's body and began to shoot beams, one after another.

While manipulating the <<Propulsion Equipment>> *Thruster* of his *Air Ride*, Hayato repeatedly dodge them and expands an E barrier to stop the beams.

Emilia is approaching Hayato while cutting the wind with vigor. When the distance between the two of them has been cut to ten meters, all eight floating turrets are reduced to particles. Then, she created a huge white sword, similar to *Hien*, whose blade is three meters long.

– Yaaaaaahh!

Emilia attacks with her sword while shouting, and Hayato stopped the blow with his *Hien*. Emilia releases energy from the *Thruster* so she can blow away Hayato's body.

But, Hayato will not allow it.

He pours energy into *Hien* and swept away Emilia's body with his sword.

– Ah!

– Uooooooooooooooooo!

Hayato launches an attack with *Hien* towards Emilia whose stance collapses. Emilia tried to prevent the slash with the E barrier, but lost due to its power, and so was blown off towards the sea surface.

– Kuh, too strong...!

It was Emilia who appeared like a straight line in the midst of the ocean, but she was just barely able to keep going.

– What's the matter, are going to give up?

[No, I have not lost yet!]

Emilia released beams from the two muzzles present in the *Air Ride*. Hayato, who injected energy to the *Thruster* and slid to the right side, aimed to Emilia

and shoot a similar beam. However, at that time, as he was distracted by releasing the beam, he neglected the control of his *Thruster*.

– ...oh no, this is bad.

The balance in his body collapses.

Emilia won't miss that opportunity.

She reduces the sword that had in her hand to particles. Then with her *Arms Shroud*, she creates a spear and throws it to Hayato.

– Take thi—s!

– Geh!

When he noticed, a spear was drawing near before his eyes. Hayato managed to recover the balance of his body and to dodge the spear at the very last moment.

– As expected, weren't you going overkill? I thought that it was a direct hit.

[Ahaha, I think that it will be absolutely dodged if it is Hayato]

– No, it was a nice last moment save...

Against Emilia, who is not timid at all, Hayato smiles bitterly. Then, a transmission entered.

[Let's leave the sham battle up to this point. If we continue with this, either one of you will suffer a serious injury]

Who said that just now, in a funny voice, was Charlotte Dimandius, the <Technologist in charge> *Main Technologist* at Little Garden, and the one who proposed the sham battle.

This marked the end of the sham battle.

Hayato and Emilia gathered together and then landed on the sandy beach.

– We-ll, as expected from you guys. Somehow, it didn't look like you were human at all, you know?

Who said that is Fritz Grantz, who belongs to the same first year of the martial arts department and who is a member of the <Selection Group> *Selections*. He



is with his childhood friend Latia. And their classmates Ryu Shuemei and Noah Sheldon, who were observing the match between Hayato and Emilia on the sandy beach.

– To be honest, I thought that you were not the same Slayers. Both of you are really amazing!

It is Noah, his classmate, who followed what Fritz said. Shuemei who was standing right next to them also nodded.

– I really want to use the *Air Ride*, and just like Hayato and Emilia, to be able to fly around the sky!

Latia looked at Hayato and Emilia with a shining and brightly look in her eyes. Then Fritz put a hand on her head.

– First of all, we must be able to deploy a fully armament.

– Uu, don't touch my head! Get that already!

It is Charlotte Dimandius, a woman in a white robe and has a fluffy light-purple hair who had come closer to Hayato and company.

She keeps her favorite candy in her mouth as usual.

– First of all, thank you very much. Even though it has been barely a little more than a week, you were able to fully handle the *Outer*. With this much, it is possible for you to be granted the permission to use the *Air Ride* during the *Third Attack*.

– Well, I can't really say that I can perfectly handle this...

He fell into a pinch because of neglecting the control of the *Thruster*.

As he was remembering that, Hayato smiled bitterly.

– Still, it is a considerable progress compared to a week ago. Hayato, who was able to <<Double Deployment>> *Dual Act* in the fight against Douglas, didn't expect that he could have much trouble to control the *Air Ride*.

– However, at that time, it felt like if it was like a Hundred.

Between *Air Ride* and *Dual Act*, it is said that the latter one is higher in difficulty. Nonetheless, during that fight with Douglas, that one Hundred, that

was used to deploy, was broken. And it was different from controlling other kind of things from the very beginning, and add to it that it was an extreme condition. It may have been thanks to the ability of the Variant that it activated.

– But, you were able to immediately use two Hundreds at once, and then to be use the *Air Ride*, as I thought, Hayato is amazing.

– There's no need to tell that you controlled it perfectly since the very beginning...

– Well, is just that, it's been a while since I'm manipulating a Hundred.

Emilia smiles with pride.

– Okay then, we still have some time to spare until the decisive battle. You should be able to operate it perfectly until then.

Charlotte said that while having her candy in her mouth, and smiled.

\*\*\*

Time goes back two weeks ago.

It is the day after the battle against Douglas, who was Emilia's fiancée. Hayato and Emilia couldn't see Kirishima Sakura's concert in the capital of Francois, Louvre. That was because Claire ordered Hayato and Emilia to return in the morning of the next day.

– Eh? Why so suddenly? What on earth are you saying, Prez!

Losing her patience, she holds the Tablet PC that was located on the desk that is in front of her, looking similar as if she was going to bite it, the person Emilia was asking that was Claire, who is reflected on the screen.

In the original schedule it was planned that they would depart from Gudenburg on the night of the next day. In other words, their return order is two days earlier than planned.

[The reason is important and confidential, but I cannot tell you in this way. But I am going to inform you about this as soon as you return desu]

– But, I had some plans for this! I really don't care about Kirishima Sakura's live concert, but there is a place that I want to go together with Hayato!

– How can you say that you don't care about my live concerts!?

It was Sakura who got up from the chair and raised a loud voice, as she was standing next to Emilia. Hayato, Emilia, and Sakura gathered in Hayato's room and listened to what Claire had to say.

– Apart from that, there is a place that we definitely have to go!

To Sakura who gave a loud voice objecting, Emilia shows a fervent speech as she raises the volume even more.

Claire, who sighed deeply while looking at these two people, continued with her words.

[I am terribly sorry, but I will really appreciate if you cancel it all masuwa]

– Uwaa.... But, there really is one place. This one place that I want to take Hayato, no matter what. Would you at least allow us to go here?

Emilia puts both of her hands in front of her chest in a pleading posture, and begs towards Claire.

[So then, what place is that desuno?]

Asks Claire, in an amazed state. And unlike so far, Emilia answered with a serious expression on her face.

– The Gudenburg National Memorial Cemetery—It is a memorial, an establishment to bring peace to the spirits, where people who died in the *Second Attack* are buried.

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It takes some time to prepare a transport machine to carry Hayato and Emilia back to Little Garden. Because of that, Claire allowed only to go to the Memorial Cemetery in the morning. But still, there's not much time anyway. That's why Hayato had to split up with Sakura, who had to return to Louvre by noon to prepare for the live concert, so they can quickly prepare their return.

They been informed that the preparations of the courtesy car are already done. Hayato, and Emilia are being guided by an escort, a maid, named Kate, to leave the palace. And there, a spectacle was spreading right before them, Emilia had her eyes wide opened in surprise.

– Kilfelthar! And also, Otou-sama and Onee-sama...

Although their departure schedule was suddenly moved forward, there were a great number of people including royalty members, high-ranking officials, and people who worked in the palace, who came to farewell Hayato and Emilia.

Emilia, who is a young mistress that not only has the blood of the prideful Gudenburg, but also is mixed with the blood of Wenz, the people of the country, was treated as an evil by the royal people and those who worked in the palace.

However, since it was revealed that the Prime Minister of the Federation of Britannia, was the leader dedicated to mutiny, seems like the atmosphere has changed completely.

Kate wiped her overflowing tears with a handkerchief, as she was looking at Emilia who is talking to everyone who surrounded her.

– I am so glad... I am so glad, Emilia-sama...

– it's good, don't you think...?

Hayato agrees, murmuring.

– When time is available, come back again with Hayato-kun.

– Yeah, got it. Well then, it's time to leave.

Emilia then rides the courtesy car that the royal family have prepared.

– Hayato, get in.

– Right.

Doing as he was told, Hayato too boarded the courtesy car.

– Hayato-sama, this is for Emilia-sama—.

Hayato received a white flower bouquet from Kate.

Is it a present for Emilia, I guess?

The door closes, and so the courtesy car starts to move.

– Well then, Otou-sama and Onee-sama—and everyone, good bye!

Emilia leaned out the window, and swung her hands until everyone's figures



disappeared.

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The Gudenburg National Memorial Cemetery is in the hillside of a mountain located outside the town, about ten minutes by car from the palace. Emilia and Hayato got off from the courtesy car at the entrance and walked among countless grave markers.

– Here it is.

– This is...

Emilia stopped her feet, Hayato's father and mother's name were in the grave marker.

– I asked to check for the grave markers of the people who were from other countries that died in this city at the time of the *Second Attack*.

– ...is that so?

Emilia devoted prayer by placing the white bouquet that was holding in her hands in front of the grave marker.

So this was the purpose of the bouquet, it seemed to be a flower arrangement to be presented to my parents.

Hayato also takes a posture of prayer, by joining his hands in the same way like Emilia.

The remains of his mother and father were sent to Yamato after a while since the *Second Attack*, and are stored in the ancestral tomb in the graveyard, which is on the side of the institution where Hayato lived for many years.

Therefore, there are only grave markers. Nevertheless, there was a proof that both of his parents were alive in this place, so he prayed with great care, Hayato is very thankful about this, he was happy for this.

(I couldn't go at summer vacation, but the next time I go home, to Yamato, I will visit their graves)

I don't know when it will be.

Will I have some time to return to Yamato, maybe in New Year, I wonder?

– Ok then, since we don't have much time, we should move.

– Yeah.

Hayato walks to the location of the courtesy car which is waiting for him and Emilia.

– Thank you, Emilia. For preparing a bouquet.

– I thought that I couldn't say a proper greeting to Hayato's father and mother without one.

That's what Emilia said as she smiled.

– Well, 'greetings'...

Somehow, that word was extremely heavy...

(Was that my imagination... right?)

The day that Hayato will visit the graveyard in Yamato, the one he postponed, will come faster than he imagined, on the contrary, it came right away.

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Time is back again to the present.

All the Slayers from first to third years were gathered in the auditorium in the school district of Little Garden, where the [*Third Attack* Countermeasure Meeting] is being held. Claire, the Student Council President, is informing about the assignment destination for the imminent *Third Attack*.

As in the same scenario than in the entrance ceremony, Claire is talking on the stage by wearing a red uniform indicating that she is the Student Council President. And the same is for both Liddy and Erika, the vice presidents, who are wearing their blue uniform, and standing on both sides of Claire.

– Kisaragi Hayato, you will head to the Empire of Yamato masuwa.

The meeting that started at noon has already ended. While the sky was dyed in a madder red color, Claire's mouth informed to Hayato that his assignment was Yamato, his hometown.

– Understood.

Standing up from the chair, Hayato answers.

Continuing, Claire said.

– The base that you will be on standby is the place where you took your test for Warslan Company narimasu.

In other words, it will be near the institution where he spent many years, the place that he was about to return in his summer vacation. He was wondering about when will be next time that he could return to Yamato, but that day came sooner than expected. Of course, it was a situation that he could not predict.

– The departure from Little Garden will be in three more days masuwa. Until then, get ready. For detailed instructions, the Student Council will inform you if there is any masu.

In short, even after arriving at Yamato, there will be a moment until the first wave of the *Third Attack*.

(Perhaps, there will be a certain time when I could visit the graves)

Suddenly, Hayato is thinking in such a thing. And just like that, the instructions to Hayato are over. Then Claire turns her line of sight to Emilia who is standing next to Hayato.

– Next is Emilia Hermit. You will be waiting orders here, in Little Garden.

– Huh...?

She can't understand what happened.

Being hard to believe, Emilia had an absentmindedly expression on her face.

However, she instantly chewed the words that Claire said.

Recovering, Emilia lifted her eyebrows as she screamed.

– Wait a moment, I will also go to Yamato with Hayato!

– Hey, Emilia! You, what are you talking about!

Hayato held Emilia's body as she was trying to give a step towards Claire.

Claire told in advance that each Slayer's location is decided according to the prediction data derived by <<LiZA>> and then judged by the Student Council

and by Warslan Company. Of course, it is not allowed to cast an objection. From the third years to the first years, everyone has been informed of the place that they will be deployed as a Slayer, but Emilia is the first person who expressed what she wanted by herself in this way.

– That is a clashing hope of yours desuwayo, Emilia Hermit.

As a matter of course, Claire who was on the stage rejected it clearly.

– If it's the case, then who will go to Yamato together with Hayato? It is impossible for me to replace them?

– The number of Slayers sent from Little Garden to Yamato has been determined to one masu. In other words, it is only Kisaragi Hayato desu.

Who said that was the vice president who wears glasses and is standing to Claire's left side.

It is Erika Candle.

The territorial area of the Empire of Yamato is known around the world for not being a wide one, the number of Slayers that belong to the army is small, but there are many outstanding people, and over the past few years, there has been almost zero damage done by the Savage. In addition to that, it has been predicted that the number of Savages that may fall to Yamato in the present conditions are no more than 10, and regarding the attacks in the downtown areas, the Imperial Army can protect it by themselves as they have their own elite Slayer Troops.

– However, if you include up to the provinces, then there are not enough Slayers to cover by themselves. Therefore, the Imperial has asked to the UN for cooperation desu.

Erika keeps explaining about the subject to Emilia.

– That is way Warslan, with their base in Yamato, decided to deploy troops in preparation for the charge of the Savage in three different places desu.

From within one of those places, the base of Motomatsu, there was a request of one person from Little Garden for support.

– Originally our intention was to assign Kisaragi Hayato to Little Garden. For



us too, Kisaragi Hayato' strength is very important.

It is Claire who said so after Erika.

However, the Yamato branch of Warslan, has nominated Kisaragi Hayato as he is a native of the country, has abundant experience in battle and can use the new weapon of Little Garden, the *Air Ride*.

And also Little Garden could not refuse this assignment because it was demanded by Shinonome Mika, who is the current commander of the Motomatsu base, and the one who recommended Hayato to Little Garden.

– If there were young people from Yamato, who are Slayers and belong to Little Garden and someone within them had the same ability and skill than Kisaragi Hayato, then I could recommend a substitute, but not Emilia. Or else, you will go to Yamato instead of Kisaragi Hayato?

– No, well, that means—.

– Then, please understand. Both Liddy and I cannot afford to leave Little Garden desu. That being the case, I will go on to the next masuwa—.

Next are the couple of Fritz and Latia to be assigned. The location is on the east coast of the United States of Liberia, in the region of the *Sunshine State*.

Fundamentally it is a peaceful rural town and its population is small, but there is a launching site that fires rockets pointing to the lunar base as well as *Mass Drivers* for transporting luggage, it is a place that should never take any damage. In other words, the ability of those two is recognized and are assigned there. Subsequently, Shuemei, Noah, and Alphonse and other assignees were announced.

Basically, first year members with the exception from the *Selections*, and excepting those who hold a Sniper Hundred type, are to standby in Little Garden. It sometimes comes out.

– That is all desu. If someone has not been informed yet about their assignment, can you please raise your hand?

(Come to think of it, what about Nesat, I wonder?)

Emilia, who's sitting next to Hayato, murmured secretly close to his ears.

Nesat Olfred, who is one of the three guys who was made an artificial variant thanks to Vitaly Tynyanov, and worked as her subordinate. There were encounters where she fought against Hayato, but now she is a friend and they fight together—Besides, she is now a classmate, and they share the same classroom.

(She got taken by Dr. Charlotte to somewhere when she was leaving the classroom)

(...is that so?)

(It may be that, there is another duty for Krovahn as well, who is in Middle School, and for Nakri too?)

(Certainly, their strength is valuable)

As a result, no one raised their hand. That means that all members have already been informed.

– Then, that is all for today's strategy meeting desuwa. It will be the last time that all the students belonging to the martial arts department gather here in front of my eyes, as the next strategy meeting is divided into each assigned destination masu. That is way that I would like to say a few words to end masu.

After a small pause, Claire kept speaking while overcome with emotion.

– We have been going through tough battles over and over again. But, this time is definitely the most intense and harsh fight since the creation of Little Garden. Nevertheless, no one will definitely lack, and will overcome the *Third Attack*, so that I would like to see your healthy figures again in this place desuwa. That is my request. We do have the power. Do you think the same desuwane?

The voices of the Slayers resounded within the *Briefing Room*. The answers is [YES].

– Then, Let's do so. I pray for that we can meet again with all of you at this place after the *Third Attack* masuwa.

That is the end of the meeting.

– As one could expect from Prez, it was a good speech.

Fritz gets up from his chair, and *HYUU* whistles with his mouth. And then he stretches his right hand to Hayato, who is still sitting on the chair.

– Hayato, you must definitely come back alive!

– You too!

Hayato stood up and grasps tightly the hand presented by Fritz.

There are those who will be sent far away, and those who will remain in Little Garden.

Everyone embraces each other, shakes hands, and just as Hayato and Fritz have done, they pledge to reunite in this place.

Claire, who's on the stage staring at those figures, staring to everyone who is standing in this place, and together with a smile, she kept wishing in her mind to not lose anyone after the end of the *Third Attack*.

## Chapter 2: Kenzaki Doujo *Touka* The sword of Hokuto

Little Garden is anchored in the port of Sangria, located on the west coast of the United States of Liberia. 17 hours, is the time difference with the Empire of Yamato, where Hayato is heading to. According to schedule, it will take more than a half a day to arrive.

During summer vacation, he was transported to the airport of the Imperial Capital, but this time it was a mission and with that to the garrisoned forces of the base of Warslan Company, so the transportation had to be done by helicopter.

It is not necessary to do calculations. Although it was somewhat comfortable, the fatigue of moving around accumulates in the body, and even if you sleep during transportation, you cannot always get the best *performance* due to jet-lag. Therefore, rest was given to Hayato for the first three days, including the arrival date. That is why he arrived earlier to Yamato. So then Hayato thought about getting permission to stay in the institution where he could spend the first three days. This, because he heard that among the Slayers, many of them who are dispatched to the city where they were born and raised, spend their vacation at their parent's house.

– Of course, there is no problem.

That was Claire's answer.

– However, the movable range is within three kilometers from the base, so please do that masuwa. Because it is not possible to forestall when the Savage may attack.

Three days after the assignment, Hayato left Little Garden on schedule and arrived at Warslan's Motomatsu Base where he will be serving as the Commander of the forces through the Warslan Royal Imperial Headquarters.

– Thank you very much for taking this long trip. It's been a while, Hayato-kun.



– Ah! Thanks.

Hayato who arrived at the base was greeted by Shinonome Mika, member of Motomatsu Base—and a Staff Member from Warslan Company, and the woman who promoted the entry of Hayato to Little Garden. She is in her mid-thirties and looks the same as when he met her six months ago, she gathered her black hair at the back of her head and wears narrow glasses. Also she wears a black suit. She gave a feeling of being like a company president.

– You seem to be doing a great job in Little Garden. It feels reassuring to see you in such a triumphal return.

– No, that is...

Overwhelmed by that welcome, Hayato is unexpectedly embarrassed. He spontaneously scratched his cheek.

– Don't be humble. Because you are the leader of a unit that will intercept the Savage that is going to appear around Motomatsu Base. So cheer up!

– Umm, about what you just said, do I really fit for being the <Commanding Officer> *Leader*?

It was decided the day after the assignment to Yamato. Hayato was called by Erika and was told that he would become the commanding officer. Since that moment, he's been worried about if he can do that properly.

– What are you saying? You are the only one within our unit that has a lot of experience fighting Savage. Everyone in the unit will feel insecurity if you act with anxiety, so be confident.

– Understood.

Certainly, it is like that.

If the commanding officer of a unit seems to be insecure, then surely their subordinates will be troubled.

– Ok then, the members of the unit...

– Actually they aren't ready yet.

Three people are under the lead of Hayato. Two of them are still middle

school students who have been attending the training school of Warslan Company in Yamato, around half a year up to now.

– Yumina, who’s also their academic advisor, is on her day off today. You might as well wait until they three are together, right? However Hayato-kun, tomorrow is your day off, so—

Hayato, who was guided by Mika until he was put on a car, was sent to the institution where he spent many years. After all, he stayed at Warslan’s Motomatsu Base for about twenty minutes. Meanwhile, Mika, who was a deputy commander of that base a year ago when she invited Hayato to Little Garden, she got promoted and it turned out that she is the commandant now.

– It may have been the effect of the introduction of Hayato-kun to Little Garden. That’s why I’m grateful.

Maybe she had the intention of complimenting him, but it was too embarrassing to tell him.

The car travels during the evening. It was around the end of the day, when the car arrived in front of the institution.

– Welcome back, Hayato-kun.

Greeted to the driver, got out of the car and rang the chime, and so Kizaki Ryōko, the institution chief, came out and gave a soft smile.

Behind her, and standing in a line, are the children who live in the institution, and so they greet one after another. Some little girls approach to Hayato’s feet and jump.

– Hayato!

– Hayato-Niichan, welcome back!

– Karen and Sakura are not here this time?

– And Mihal?

– Emile isn’t here either?

After that, there was a welcome party just like last summer vacation. After eating dinner happily with everyone and talking to each of them, he took a bath

with the children. And then, after having delivered everyone to their bedrooms—

Hayato headed to the living room and there he saw, to Ryōko's nimble figure who was tidying up the meal.

– Ryōko-Obasan, thank you very much.

– It is I who should say thanks to you, for taking care of our children.

Ryouko put a sweet smile and continued.

– Would you like to drink some tea?

– Yes, I would like to.

When answering and sitting in front of the table, Ryouko brought to him a warm houjicha\*.

**\*TN: Roasted Green Tea.**

While drinking it, Ryouko sits on a chair in front of him and asks a question.

– Hayato-kun, what are you going to do tomorrow?

– I'm thinking of going to visit the grave of my parents.

Hayato tells to Ryouko that he couldn't go visit their grave when he came in the summer vacation, and that he had the opportunity to go to Gudenburg some time ago and visited the National Memorial Cemetery where his parents are enshrined.

– Oh, I see. I think that your father and mother will be delighted. Besides, if it is alright with you.

– 'Alright', what is it?

– If you have any spare time, I thought about saying to you to make an appearance to Kenzaki dōjō. The last time you came back, you didn't go there. When I met with Ryūsei sometime before, he told me that in the case Hayato-kun does come back, to convey to you about going there.

– Oh, is that so?

Hayato attended that Kenzaki dōjō until he started to live at this institution

and shortly before he headed to Little Garden.

Kenzaki Ryūsei, the master of the dōjō. He is a large man whose height is over 180 centimeters, and his age is in the mid-40s, but he has a youthful face that can be mistaken as if he is in his twenties.

(The truth, I did something bad to my master...)

While listening to Ryōko's talk, feelings of guilt started to rise in Hayato's chest.

Ryūsei trained him well as a disciple, even though Hayato was very young, and then sending him in a gentle way towards Little Garden to become a Slayer, so his gratitude will never be enough to truly thank him. To Hayato, Ryūsei is a benefactor, a respected master. So then, why he didn't visit the dōjō during the summer vacation? There are two reasons for that.

The first one, he had a hunch about that Emilia will surely come. Ryūsei, the master of the sword, possesses a high perspicacity. His judgment is dangerous, as he could see the true identity of Emilia, who is dressed as a man. The second reason is that, for the female individuals like Karen, Sakura and Mihal, it is dangerous for them to come along. Although he is a benefactor and a respected master, he has a little difficult personality. He is an unequalled lover of women.

Especially, it was unmistakably sexual harassment towards women who were in their adulthood. Regardless of Karen who has seen her face many times, what things he may say to Sakura and Mihal—If someone enquired to him to think how was his relationship with him, then it was terribly unbearable. However, this time is just one person. It's all fine.

– Will you do it? If you go, then I will let them know.

– If that's the case, I'll really appreciate that.

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Just before noon of the next day, Hayato, who's alone, and wearing the uniform of Little Garden, left the institution. The first place to go is the cemetery where his father and mother are resting. He reached the place after a fifteen minute walk on foot through the path that goes inside the forest. He bought flowers for offering, and sprinkled water on the gravestone. Then, he

put one hand over the other in front of his chest and closed his eyes, and spoke to the two deep sleepers.

Dad, mom, it's been a long time.

I've grown accustomed quite a lot to live in Little Garden.

First of all, I have happy news.

Karen's legs are getting better.

She is now able to attend to school.

Moreover, she is starting to be a something like a songstress...

She, her wonderful songs are splendid.

And now, comes the sad news.

It's been ten years since the *Second Attack*.

And, it seems that the Savage are coming a lot to the Earth.

I am, trying to protect this world where we are living now.

To protect Karen, and those people who are precious to me.

That's why as a Slayer, I will fight the Savage.

To prevent a tragedy like that time.

This city, I will protect it.

So dad, mom.

The moment we overcome the *Third Attack* safely, if Karen got better—.

Oh, that's right.

I went to Gudenburg the other day.

Mom and dad were also enshrined in the National Memorial Cemetery. The one who took me there is a princess of the Kingdom of Gudenburg—.

Emilia, if I could bring someone along with me here, the one who I will bring along with me is her.

I'm sure that, if it's her, I think that she will definitely say hello to mom and dad.



Well then, mom, dad.

Also, I will come back to this place whenever I can.

Please watch over me, and to this Earth.

Hayato left the graveyard and went towards the next stop, to the dōjō where his master is waiting. The positioning of the institution, the cemetery and the dōjō is exactly like a triangle. Therefore, rather than heading directly from the institution, it became a considerable detour. It's a road that is not paved, and the ups and downs are quite fierce. Even so, He was able to have in sight the building of a samurai residence-like in about fifteen minutes.

It is the residence where the master of the dōjō Kenzaki Ryūsei lives, and the same old-fashioned wooden building next to it is the Kenzaki dōjō. Plenty of years have passed since the *First Attack*—. Since then, the time had come where they ought to protect themselves. In addition, it is the birth of the Slayers. The parents that allows their children to learn martial arts are tremendously increasing all over the world, and Yamato is not the exception. Dōjōs such as kendō, jūdō and karate, are full of children everywhere.

...but, Kenzaki dōjō was not one of those.

There are not a few disciples.

Hayato was the only one who attended there every day.

The reasons were the depopulated village and that it was within the forest, and more than that, it was that the dōjō master Kenzaki Ryūsei had a bad reputation. Ryūsei had imposing matching features, his hair was always ruffled, and you could see that his chin was unshaven. And above all, he gulped down alcohol every day during the daytime.

Even though the monthly tuition fee was cheap, there were probably no parents who tried to entrust their important child to such a man.

(But, his teachings were quite respectable...)

It was thanks to that, that Hayato was able to enter as one of the best 4, at that time in his third year of middle high school, to the [Yamato Unified Kendō Tournament, Junior High School Male Students Division]

He recalls when he was introduced by Kizaki Ryōko, the institution chief, when he visited the dōjō for the first time.

– Why, do you want to learn my swordmanship? Are you aware of my reputation?

Hayato was raised by the house, that's why Ryūsei asked that to him.

Nor because he was introduced by the institution chief, nor because the monthly tuition is cheap, nor because is close to the institution. He soon realized that when he heard that it was not any of those realistic reasons.

– I do not want to lose anything.

He hesitated a little and was barely able to finish his answer.

– Then, what do you not want to lose?

– At the time of the *Second Attack*, I was staying in the Kingdom of Gudenburg and I was attacked by the Savage. I lost my parents there and lost my memories about my stay in Gudenburg.

– Hou...

After narrowing his eyes in a sad way, a little silence elapsed and Ryūsei continued.

– That was a disaster.

– But, recently, I have been feeling that I can recall the memories from that time.

Then Hayato told to Ryūsei about a story of a fragmentary dream that he sees.

It is about a little girl who's captured by a Savage, and the boy, who's telling this dream, can't save the girl.

– If that incident really happened to me, I wouldn't run now. But, if I had the power, I think I might have saved that little girl.

– While it may be true that, by learning swordmanship, you will not gain enough strength to fight the Savage. Do you understand that?

– Still, I want to become strong.

– Understood, then I will make you a disciple of mine. I will make you a strong man by training you from the beginning.

– Really!?

– On the other hand— although I said that, as you see, I’m bad at keeping my stuff tidy. So, will you do the cleaning here? Of course, not only this residence, but the dōjō too. In that case, there won’t be need of a monthly fee. I don’t feel like taking money from a boy living in an institution.

Such an offer by Ryūsei is very appreciated by Hayato—.

– Thank you, Shishō\*! Really, I’m very grateful for this!

***\*TN: Shishō means master, and as I already used ‘master’ before under another kanji, and to avoid confusion, I’ll use this term from now on as this is heavily used in this volume. Shishō = master, teacher in a certain discipline.***

And so Hayato became a disciple in this way, but in the first six months, there was hardly anything related to swordsmanship coming from Ryūsei’s teachings. Between doing practice-swinging and uchikomi\*, he is occasionally under his guidance.

***\*TN: Uchikomi refers to the action of a practice in kendo, in this scenario, is related to a one person, were you wrap a band around a pillar, and you throw of it with the both ends of the band.***

– Niisan, is he really okay, Shishō?

Karen, who had met face to face with Ryūsei, asked about Hayato so many times.

Certainly thinks that there is some problem with this human Ryūsei, and she also believes that there is some use in his way of saying things.

But still, Hayato trusted Ryūsei.

Ryōko gave her stamp of approval in that his skill was certain, because she knew that his body had tightened a lot, specially his muscles while cleaning and mopping was also being done. A bamboo sword, he gotten used to that a lot.

It was half a year ago, and since the beginning of going to the dōjō that Karen understood, as well as Hayato, that such guidance of Ryūsei was accurate.

There was an elementary school kendo tournament sponsored by the town and he was told by Ryūsei to participate in it, and he did. While being not so sure about how to fight in the first game, he won and advanced to the next round, until he won the championship in the primary school category.

(Shishō is amazing after all...)

What he thought at that time was not a mistake. By the time he was in junior high school, in his first year he was within the best four in the prefecture, and in his second year he was able to advance up to the finals. And so in his third year he finally won the championship and was able to go to the best 4 at the Yamato Unified Kendo Tournament men's category. It was around that time that Ryūsei learned that Hayato had a talent to be a Slayer.

(Me a Slayer...)

Hayato thought about what to do over the night, and in the evening of that day, a scout woman who came from the Warslan Company, Shinonome Mika, invited him to Little Garden. There's hesitation. That's why, to shake off that, the next day, Hayato conveyed to Ryūsei that he decided to enter Little Garden.

– Shishō, I earnestly need to talk with you today. I have something important to tell you.

– ...what is it?

After Ryūsei's residence and dōjō cleaning was over. Hayato called out to Ryūsei who was drinking sake and holding that sake bottle while lying down in the tatami living room.

– Actually, It seems that I have a talent to be a Slayer, so I was invited to be a Slayer.

– Hou, let me hear that in detail.

Ryūsei got up, his facial expression was serious.

After that Hayato was encouraged by Karen and the children of the institution, he accepted a reasonable test from the Warslan Company and so, the Hundred responded, and that response value was very high— As a result, he was told that he was invited to join a training facility known as Little Garden.

– Is that so? Then you are one of Warslan’s Slayers cadets....

After a brief silence, Ryūsei continued.

– So, what’s your plan? Do you intent to go to Little Garden?

– Yes, that’s my plan.

– The sword that I teach is not to defeat the Savage. Do you remember that I said that at the beginning?

– ...yes.

Hayato nodded, and continued.

He predicted beforehand that this question was going to be asked.

Hayato conveys the answer that was hidden in his heart to Ryūsei.

– I’m going to Little Garden, but not to fight the Savage.

But for my sister.

For everyone in the institution.

And, to regain my memories completely.

– All right.

Ryūsei stood up and said.

– If you have settled your heart, then there is nothing to say from me. If you want to go, then do as you wish. It will be somewhat lonely.

– Shishō, I am truly grateful for all that you have done so far.

– What are you saying? Attending here just before going to Little Garden. You are going to be a Slayer. I’m not going easy on your training. I will do of you a real swordsman.

And finally the day before he left for Little Garden came.

Who came to Hayato as he finished cleaning the dojo for a last time is Ryūsei while he is holding two bamboo swords in his hand.

He offered one of them to Hayato, and said.

– Hayato, have a match with me.



– Eh?

It was natural that Hayato is surprised.

He had countless occasions where they exchanged blows while doing practice, but if it's about having a match against Ryūsei, that never happened.

In the first place, this is the first time that Ryūsei is about to have a combat, something that Hayato has never seen before.

– I'm telling you this to make sure how much of a swordsman you have become. Think of it as a graduation exam, okay?

Hayato unintentionally suppressed his breath.

– Understood, then the protective gear is...

– Those things are unnecessary. Let's take it as it is—with full power.

– Is that really okay?

Hayato is in middle-level posture\* —.

**\*TN: Refers to *Chūdan* = 中段, *middle-level posture in kendo*.**

Ryūsei set up his bamboo sword at high-level posture, and so they face each other.

– If you don't come here, then I'll go there.

And so Ryūsei was the one who attacked first. Stepping forward with his foot on a gale-like speed, he swung downward his quick bamboo sword.

– ...agh!

Hayato stopped the blow, but the impact was a tremendous shock to his hands as they are trembling.

Hayato also undauntedly returns a blow, but it was unable to break Ryūsei's stance. Weapons clashing over and over again. Until it was the moment that they were locked sword to sword. Before he could put a step forward with his foot, Hayato was pressured and lost his stance to the sword pressure of Ryūsei, who put his whole body weight on the bamboo sword. From there, Ryūsei swings downward the bamboo sword consecutively. Hayato tries to dodge them, but soon his condition came to his limits and his posture collapsed, falling

on his backside.

– It seems like, I’m the winner.

With a puff, Ryūsei’ expresses a smile, and extended his hand to Hayato.

– I thought that Shishō is undoubtedly strong, but I didn’t expected to be this much. It is no way true that you can lose in a championship match.

– By the way, I wasn’t being serious at all. When you came back, make a serious effort so that you can be able to win against me.

– Understood.

Hayato grasps tightly that hand and stands up.

– Well then, Shishō, I’m going.

– ...oh right. Don’t die, Hayato.

It has been since that time that Hayato was with Ryūsei.

– So you have finally appeared, Kisaragi Hayato!

Suddenly, in a place a little further to the residence, he heard a voice.

It is a voice of a young woman.

– ...Eh?

Hayato takes a look to his surroundings, as the voice that he heard is around somewhere.

– What are you doing looking around restlessly? I am here!

Once the voice has raised a second time, he finally found the spot.

Hayato directed his sight to the nearby tree.

– You are...

– Fufufu, so you finally noticed, isn’t it?

A girl wearing a kendo uniform as she raises a wide-angle complacent smile, is on a branch of a thick tree around three meters above the head of Hayato. The red hair behind the top of her head is slightly swaying like a flame by the wind.

(Don’t tell me, is she a new disciple of Shishou?)

Her stature may be around 140 centimeters tall, younger than her sister Karen, and as far as he can see, that figure belongs to someone who is definitely practicing kendo.



At any rate, she has a wooden sword in her hands. And the girl declared while

pointing its tip to Hayato.

– Kisaragi Hayato, have a match with me!

Then she kicked the branch of the tree and tried to jump off from it—.

– Fuee!?

A scream was leaked out from the girl. The moment she tried to jump off, she probably put too much weight on that branch. And so, the branch of the tree breaks with a loud noise, and the body of the girl falls to the ground.

– It's dangerous!

At the last moment, Hayato rushed to the bottom of the tree so he can possibly catch her, but as his momentum was too much, he failed a little the falling point.

– Uwaah!?

– Kyaaaah!?

At the same time as the voice of both of them overlap, the front of Hayato becomes dark.

– Ow ow ow...

It was a strong impact on his body. Due to hitting his buttocks and his back with the ground, the lower half of his body is numb.

(No way, did I fail to catch her...? Moreover, what is, this?)

His face is pressed quite well, both of his cheeks are very hot, and it is unreasonable oppressive. It is such a situation where he may suffocate if it keeps like this.

(It may be that the one who is over me now, is that girl on top of me?)

This seems to be an unimaginable situation.

Hayato struggled to move his body, trying to escape from the girl.

– Hyaaaa!

It was a scream of a girl that came to his ears.

So once again, Hayato thinks back upon the situation in which he is now.



He tried to save the girl who fell from the tree and failed. So no doubt, she is the girl who is on top of his body right now.

(If so, what place is this from that girl?)

Darkness.

Warmth feeling on his face.

And the smell of sweat and sweetness unique to girls intermingled. So Hayato, reaches to one answer.

(Perhaps, this is the inside of a hakama\*?)

**\*TN: A formal divided skirt.**

Supposing that these are the girl's thighs were his head is being hold between. Then, it's the girl's nether region that is blocking his mouth.

(This is bad, this situation is absolutely bad!)

His body is getting hotter. So Hayato moved his body in an attempt to escape from this situation as soon as possible. But because of that, he added a stimulus to it.

– Hyann! That's... nuuh!

The girl's face struggles upon that.

His face is being pressed forcefully and continuously by the nether region, so his mouth is further blocked with soft meat. In this way, he may die wrapped in softness and sweet fragrance.

His head felt dizzy.

Even if he wanted to beg to her to move by saying it, it would be the same as the words won't come because his mouth is blocked.

While groaning, Hayato desperately continues to move his body.

– Hiaa, what is thiss..!? Kuunh... uuuuunh! Nn... then...

She finally understood the situation at last.

The girl who was leaking a cute voice and that was continuously moving stopped.

– Kyaaaaaaaaaahh!

– Puhaaaah...

Hayato, who released of that together with a scream, took in a breath in a big way. Now that his field of vision is finally released from the darkness, the one who is reflected, is the figure of a girl standing up in a hurrying manner who then jumps out.

– Ah...!

Involuntarily, Hayato raised his voice.

The girl was too overly impatient, so she couldn't stand firmly on the ground. Her balance breaks, and so her body falls to the back.

– That's dangerous!

Without a moment's delay. Hayato reached out his hand, and grabbed the girl's chest. However, due to the gravity and its momentum applied to the girl, his body is carried away.

– Uwaa?!

– Kyaah!?

The voice of the two overlaps again.

This time Hayato had the appearance of like riding on a girl's body—rather than Hayato pushing down the girl's body.

– Ah...!

He feels something in his palm, it has a soft sensation.

– Hyann!

A pretty voice leaks out of the girl's mouth. Hayato's right hand was touching the girl's breast.

(Oh no, don't tell me such a thing is happening again...)

He remembers, it was at that time in the duel with the president. He covered her from above and rubbed her breast with all his strength\*.

***\*TN: Like when you fall to the ground while having something on your***

***hands, your muscles will get tense and apply more strength as they contract.***

It's a girl whose height is lower than Karen, but the growth in her chest is good enough that can be tightly hold.

Although this was an accident, Hayato was trying to excuse him somehow, and the girl turned her face red,

– Wh wh wh wh wh where are touching!?

– Uwaah!?

She threw Hayato's body backwards with both of her hands.

– That really hurt....What are you doing...?

Hayato, who once again falls on his backside, tries to get up while suppressing the pain in his hips and buttocks. From there, the girl's voice echoes.

– I won't forgive you, I'll never forgive you!

As he raises his face, the girl who stood up earlier picked up the wooden sword that rolled on the ground, and within a step she readies herself. The pointed end was of course, pointing to Hayato.

– Punishment!

– Uwaa!?

Hayato hurriedly rolled to the right as the wooden sword was swung downward.

***DON!***

A dense cloud of sand soars from the ground where the wooden sword had struck.

– Geh.... What was, that...?

Hayato's spine felt a cold shiver when he saw the ground clearly dented.

(Such a blow, if I simply apologize...)

While it may be true that, he can't deploy his Hundred.

The *Third Attack* is close. It is forbidden to use *energy* in vain.

– The thing that I did was really bad. I apologize, I'll do whatever you want, so forgive me!

– Whatever I want, if that's the case, what I want is to have a match!

– No, just forgive me, no more than that!

– Nope!

The girl never stopping her hands, starts to pursuit one after another.

– So, why do I have to fight you?

– Did you forget the promise of two years ago?

– A promise of two years ago?

– At that time, you promised me that you will have a rematch with me! So, while I dedicated myself to study, you were just hooked on with girls!

– “Girls”? What are you talking about!?

While dodging the girl's wooden sword, Hayato kept asking desperately.

– It was about when I returned to Yamato in the summer. I heard from Ryūsei that you did not come to greet to the dōjō and that you were having fun with girls that you brought. I was thinking that I just had to settle this with you, for all the time that Ryūsei had been waiting!

– Even so, those girls have nothing to do with it. In the first place, who are you? It is common sense as a swordsman to introduce yourself first when you challenge someone to a match, don't you agree!?

– I'm Kenzaki Touka.

– ...eh?

– There's a gap!

Kenzaki is the same family name as his master, Ryūsei. Shishō Ryūsei should not have any children.

In the face of Hayato who thought whether she was probably a relative, the sharpest thrust releases.

(Dangerous!)

Hayato felt the danger on his life, in that moment—.

*DON!*

(Oh——!)

The scenery in front of Hayato's eyes was similar to be suspended the moment he felt the attack.

It is a dual world.

The eyes of Hayato were dyed with a golden color. It is the awakening of the ability of the Variant.

— ...kuh!

He felt like his consciousness was breaking down, suddenly he clench his teeth, Hayato is passing out. If the Variant Virus take over his body, then he doesn't know what might do. By deploying the Hundred that is hanging from his neck, there is a possibility of starting a sword fight with that girl.

(That's no good)

In his slow-motion world, he warped his body, and Hayato dodged her thrust.

And so, he thinks.

(Next is... what do I do?)

First of all, stop the girl's attack, and then to calm down myself.

(For that I should——)

Pulls out his own foot and hangs it on the girl's foot.

— ...Wha!?

The girl, surprised by the thrust, immediately noticed the impact on her right foot. Because of that, she lost her balance.

— Kyaa!

The girl falls to the ground from the front. Hayato, who felt relieved to see that figure, the color in his eyes returned to normal. There, a voice reverberated.

— You guys, what are you doing in a place like this?

Hastily the girl raised her body, and turned her eyes to the owner of that voice. Hayato does the same.

– “Ryūsei!” – “Shishō!”

The voice of the girl and Hayato overlapped.

– Dodging Touka’s thrust from that stance, you seemed to have raised your skill quite a lot.

Having said that, Kenzaki Ryūsei who is Hayato’s Shishō, has shopping bags on both of his hands, gave a nice smile.

\*\*\*

– It is more beautiful than I thought.

Hayato and Touka follow the lead of Ryūsei, They step into the residence, and encircle the desk that is in the tatami-matted living room. He was thinking that the inside of the house would be a mess as a result that he was in charge of cleaning for many years until he left, but it is surprisingly clean and everything is in order.

– Ha-ha-ha, that’s right. This is thanks to Touka.

Ryūsei looks to the girl next to him.

But Touka didn’t give a single reaction to that. She was glaring at Hayato with her eyes half-opened.

– ...umm, it might be suddenly going to the main question but, Touka-san, why did you attack me?

– As I said, it is because of the promise of two years ago.

Says Touka, sharpening her lips.

– That ‘two years ago’ thing, what’s with that?

He spontaneously answers back with a strong tone, being angry.

– Yamato Unified Kendo Tournament preliminaries, that final match. At that time you said this. Someday you’ll have a rematch with me and—.

– Umm....



Hayato remembers that final match of two years ago. His opponent was surprisingly short and, he remembers that the skill of that person was considerable.

– ...wait, by any chance, that opponent was you?

– Uh huh. It was definitely me.

– But, wait a minute. That was the boy's division.... And besides, how old are you now?

– I'm thirteen.

– So then, at that time you were an elementary school student. What's more, you are a girl, isn't it? Even so then why were you in the middle school boy's tournament!

It is a fact that there is no mistake that she is a woman because he touched her breast a while ago. Hayato's hand proves that.

– The one who's all to blame is Ryūsei.

As Touka says that, she looked up at Ryūsei who's sitting next to her, and glanced at him.

– ... It was Shishō?

– Three hours before fighting you. That was after winning the tournament in the elementary school girl's division. I found Ryūsei and supplicated to him [I want to be your disciple] but, I was lightly washed away\* with [If you want to be my disciple, then you must defeat my best pupil]. So that's why I applied to have a match with you on the spot. But then you [You are a man\*\*. Young gi—even so, can I really fight with a child?]

\*TN: Meaning that she was lightly rejected.

\*\*TN: I don't know if this was intended but this might be an error coming from either the writer or the editor, because I think the subjects are inverted.

– Umm, did such a thing really happen?

– It did!

Hayato looks at the face of Ryūsei.

Thereupon, Ryūsei asked to Hayato.

– It might be that you don't remember?

– Yes.

Hayato nods.

– But, the story of now is true.

If it is Ryūsei that says so, then there's no doubt about it, right?

– So I considered some ways to fight you. The idea that I came up with was, to do a surprise attack to the opponent, and remove the kendō armor, it is a way to make you leave the match instead\*.

Being the case, kendō is something that is performed while wearing protective armor, so she thought that he can't be exposed. And so, that expose didn't happen.

– But, the result was an utter defeat. After that, I wanted to rematch you, so in order to obtain that victory, I continued practicing hard every day. Although I entered the prefectural preliminaries of the high school boy's division, you weren't in that place! You become a Slayer to avoid to match against me, you went to Little Garden—

– Well, I didn't particularly did it to avoid to match against you...

– Shut up! Shut up! That doesn't have nothing to do with this! Moreover you, you came back in the summer but you didn't show your face at the dōjō at all, because you were flirting and flirting and flirting with women, right!?

– No, 'flirting'...

– That kind of behavior, I heard it from Ryūsei!

– Shishō!

– I just told her exactly what I heard from Ryōko-san.

*Hahaha*, and smiled.

– For that reason the next time you come back you must absolutely visit the dōjō, that's what was conveyed through Ryūsei. So I kept waiting on this house for the day that—

-As a result, I was attacked because of that...

– So is that sort of thing.

Ryūsei laughs loudly, and Hayato sighs heavily. Then he remembers the moment before he left Little Garden. Karen who used Tarot's fortune telling, said that there's going to come out [ill fortune concerning women]. This is one of them, apparently Karen's ill prediction hit the mark.

– With that being said Kisaragi Hayato. Fight me. Understand already that there's no need for mercy just because I'm a girl!

Surely is just like that, isn't it?

Hayato understands well enough her skill.

– But, why did you want to become a disciple of Shishō?

How should he put it, Hayato thinks that is similar to the previous disciple. At any rate, works and lives there, she also does the cleaning and the like. Hayato also never received decent guidance for the first six months.

– There's something that I want you to teach me.

Touka replied.

– Something you want me to teach you?

– Uh huh.

Nodding, Touka continues.

– How to defeat the Savage.

– Huh...?

Hayato unintentionally turned his eyes towards Ryūsei.

– What is that reaction? Before the Hundred were developed, don't you know that Ryūsei fought against the Savage together with my father?

– Shishō was, and the Savage...?

Hayato was truly surprised.

[The sword that I teach is not to destroy the Savage]

Because that's the first thing that was told by Ryūsei.

– Such thing, is all true?

– ...yeah, sort of.

Ryūsei suddenly spilled a smile.

– Why did you not tell me about that story?

– I specially avoid to talk about that. Besides, I ran out of that fight. I can't feel pride of that...

Ryūsei who was sitting cross-legged stood up, and took with one of his hands a pitch black sword that was decorating the living room. It is a sword that has been told to Hayato a long time ago to not touch it.

– I'll go outside. Both of you follow me. Today I'm going to talk about a special old story.

He thought that they would move to the dōjō, but that was not so. It is the backyard of the dōjō where Ryūsei headed to.

– That reminds me, I haven't told to Hayato the relationship between me and Touka yet. Touka's father is Kenzaki Hokuto— my brother.

– As I thought, you were a relative of Shishō.

It is just as he supposed the moment she self-introduced as Kenzaki Touka.

– But, we don't look alike, isn't it? I'm similar to my brother Hokuto, With the exception of the ability with the sword, Touka is similar to her mother.

With that as an introduction, Ryūsei continued talking.

– Hokuto and I were connected by body and soul the moment we had a sword in our hands. The family lineage of the Kenzaki has been a family dedicated to swordsmith for over a thousand years, and there was a sword anywhere in the house. Even though, we could only have a bamboo sword in our hands at that time. That's why we used to sword fight every day with our bamboo swords.

Ryūsei smiles like he is yearning for something of that time. It was around at the beginning that the ability of his older brother Hokuto flourished. However, the position was completely reversed once Ryūsei turned ten years old. He was

no longer defeated.

– Although I might say, the ability of Hokuto was considerable. Of course he didn't lose at the Kenjinkai\*, nor at the national competition, nor even to the adults. With the exception of me.

**\*TN: Literally: association of people from the same prefecture. 県人会.**

Without a change, those two people turned into adults, his brother Hokuto succeeded the swordsmith, his family business's work, and Ryūsei taught fencing at the dōjō.

– At that time, the Kenzaki's workshop and dōjō were not only here, but also in the central part of Motomatsu. There were more than one hundred disciples.

And in middle of that, the *Second Attack* occurred. Yamato is a small island country. Although the number of Savage that attacked was only a few, some cities fell into destruction.

– Of course, the Imperial Army was also in a state of devastation. In such a situation, Hokuto was requested by the Imperial Army. You can't train a sword with the objective of causing damage to the Savage, I thought.

Savage's steel shell is hard, and not only ordinary swords, but guns and even missiles can't do any sort of damage. Therefore, they went to talk to Hokuto, who is an excellent swordsmith, to whether he can make a weapon effective against the Savage.

– Hokuto was a man with a strong sense of justice. From the beginning. I was wondering about if there would be an effective sword against the Savage. Only that, when he received the request, he couldn't make a sword that is effective against them. But, right at that moment, a piece of meteorite that came flying from the space, was brought in from the army. It was a *Variable Stone*.

They were told that its shape could change to a weapon if a human touches a part of it, but when Hokuto touched it, and even when Ryūsei touched it, there was no reaction.

If that's the case, then he can only make a sword for himself, Hokuto used the *Variable Stone* as a raw material, so he tempered thoroughly a one of a kind sword. The strength of that sword was quite high, it seemed like there was

nothing that couldn't cut in this world. After that, it was the real deal, to test it with the Savage—.

– The Savage have just appeared near the city where we lived around that time. The Imperial Army thought that this was a good opportunity and proposed to use it in the actual war.

But, the problem was that nobody could use that sword. It is heavier than a regular sword and it is difficult even to handle it.

– And so, they came with the conclusion that it was my turn.

– In other words, Shishō had to fight against the Savage with a sword that was made of *Variable Stone*?

– That's right.

Ryūsei nods.

– But, I couldn't cause any damage to the Savage.

It was possible to scratch or dent the steel shell of a Savage, but it can't be cut off. That is because a thin membrane is developed using *energy* over the steel shell.

The *shelter* that protects the core which is the source of Savage's life was further thick, and it was impossible even to land a scratch. As a result, the Imperial Army was discouraged. Hokuto too.

– Then, at that time I thought. If I were my brother, how could I destroy the Savage with this sword made by Hokuto?

As Ryūsei says that, he raised the black sword that had in his hands, showing it to Touka and Hayato.

– In short that sword, is the one that my Chichi-ue\* forged?

**\*TN: she said 'father' in a very formal way.**

While staring at the sword without a motion, Touka murmurs.

– Indeed.

Ryūsei nods, and continued.

– Therefore I thought, and came up with a technique. Perfect, that will do it.

Ryūsei set his eyes to a huge rock that is in his garden, its height is fifty centimeters and has a length of eighty centimeters.

– Hayato, a question. Do you think that I can destroy that rock with this sword made by Hokuto?

– Huh?

– If you like, it's ok to hold it.

Hayato received the sword that Ryūsei handed out.

– Uwa...

It looks just like a mass of lead. His arms and upper body are about to sink.

– I can say that this thing is so heavy...

And its blade is thick. It looks more like a western blade that is made to hit rather than to slash. Although it looks like it is completely thin, it may be a little similar to *Hien*.

– I want to hold it too!

Said Touka while she was jumping, doing *PYON PYON*

She looks at the sword that Hayato possesses with her eyes resembling a puppy desiring a snack.

– You sure? It's pretty heavy.

Touka receives the sword from Hayato who presented her an advice just in case.

– Mu... certainly, it-it's... heavy huh...

Touka, who was about to fall at first, immediately adjusts her balance and does one, and two swings with the sword.

– This is my Chichi-ue's forged sword— the sword that fought against the Savage!

Touka stared at the sword, while her eyes were brilliantly shining. It seems like, she is immersed in deep emotion. Continuing, Touka said.



– Ryūsei, is it fine if I try it!?

– Try it? What do you mean is, you want to test whether you can destroy that rock.... I see, there's no problem. Try to do it.

– Really?! If so—.

Touka walks towards the rock's location, and readied the sword in her upper right corner.

– Here I go, teei!

After taking down the sword from the upper part, it slashes the rock.

But, the result is disastrous. Far from doing anything to the rock, Touka ended sat down on the spot. Her arms have become numb, due to the reaction of her sword that stroke hard with all her strength. Touka had fallen into tears. While watching that figure laughing with a *Hahaha*, Ryūsei picked up the sword that was placed in front of Touka.

– The answer, is as you see. Touka is not unskilled at all. It is like that almost all the time. Hayato, you try it too. However—.

Ryūsei readied the sword overhead.

– What I created is, the destruction by the application of natural vibration.

Declaring that, Ryūsei swings downward the sword towards the rock.

– This is the special move that I created—Kenzaki Secret Style <<斬影斬>>  
*Zaneizan*\*

***\*TN: It doesn't have a specific meaning. The first kanji can mean: beheading, kill, murder and the second one: shadow, reflection, image, presence. It seems that the first one comes alone and the other two form another term. If anyone comes with a cool name for it, I'll use in the translation. My guess could be: Slashing Beheading Shadow. A lame one xD.***

And then, the rock was pulverized into pieces.

– Amazing...

While looking, Hayato raised a surprised voice. Touka too.

– Ryūsei! How on earth could you do that now!?



– As I said earlier, I used natural vibration.

– ...natural vibration? What is that!? Explain it in a way that I can understand it!

– Do you know that the waves for that sword are transmitted? Just like when an object collide with another object?

– No, I didn't know.

Touka replies immediately. She is still a middle school student, so that it can't be helped, right?

– Hayato, what about you?

– Umm, I understand a part of it but...

A learning lesson of Little Garden.

– Don't tell me, are you and Touka at the same level? Well, minor theory and the like, I can tell you that is irrelevant, so it doesn't matter. Simply put, we can add a second long sword to match the wave made by the first long sword, which will resonate the wave to amplify it. That way it will double, triple its power, it's no more than that.

– In short, as the blade was slightly repelled by the reaction when it touched the rock, are we supposed to swing down the sword again instantaneously?

– You understood it nicely, isn't it? That's exactly the answer. I thought that it was a trivial matter, but it's not so.

– The reason is that I know that thing about the sword.

Touka answers with her arms stretched. But, it seems that she doesn't have the intention to deny that such thing is a trivial matter.

– Then the next. Besides, this is a similar way of doing it.

Moving in front of the rock approximately the same way as before, Ryūsei readied his sword.

– I'm going to do the same move of releasing a long sword followed by a second long sword but, this time I'm going to release a series of attacks so that I can draw an X-shaped cut line on the rock. With this, the power will decrease a little. You watch.

Saying that, Ryūsei shows that sword technique.

– This is<<斬影斬・弐式>> *Zaneizan Second Style* !

Ryūsei released a series of attacks, and the rock was pulverized in the same way as before.

– One more, there is one more technique.

Ryūsei kept speaking while walking towards the front of another rock.

– This is for the moment you have to destroy the core of a Savage. Look carefully, ok?

And so, it was done in an instant. By the thrust that Ryūsei released, the rock was destroyed in very small pieces in a similar way as before.

– Incredible...

– Indeed.

Hayato and Touka were staring at Ryūsei with a surprised gaze that was mixed with envy.

– Oh well, if you do something like this with a normal sword, the blade will be chipped and so it will become useless. The fact that it can withstand it, is because this is a sword that was forged, that it was made by Hokuto.

There are only two swords made with the *Variable Stone* that were received from the Imperial Army. And with those swords, Ryūsei and Hokuto decided to fight the Savage. The older brother Hokuto using his forged sword, and the younger brother Ryūsei who slaughters Savage with the sword technique that he created.

Approximately one year and a half—.

Those two people, the Kenzaki brothers, fought against the Savage and protected the Yamato Empire. It was their task until that moment came, when the Hundred were developed by Warslan Company's engineer, Linis Harvey.

– Even though it was for a short period of time, our bodies were worn-out during that time. In the first place, our ages were over thirty, and of course, the injuries didn't stop. For that reason, an unusual phenomenon occurred to my

body.

In the battles Ryūsei did not receive direct attacks from the Savage. But, he wasn't covered in body fluids one time nor two times.

– At that time, the Savage's virus pretty much invaded my body. Because of that, my body has stopped moving like before. Thanks to a fall that I had from a cliff during a battle, I suffered a serious injury, so I retired from fighting with the Savage.

Nevertheless, his older brother Hokuto did not stop fighting the Savage. He continued fighting alone.

Ryūsei, in comparison with the virus, his resistance is stronger, so that's why there were no abnormalities in his body. Besides the Hundred were handled, and although the Slayer who could fight the Savage appeared also in Yamato, the number was still small. There were also cases in which a great deal of damage happened until the Slayers that came running could get there. Additionally, the Slayers at that time could only deploy Hundred, and most of them did not receive decent battle training. And of course the experience of fighting against the Savage, the battle technique is overwhelmingly superior on the side of Hokuto. There were many of those Slayers who appeared during the battles and pulled their legs, as a result, Hokuto who covered the Slayers was attacked by a Savage and died due to the injury—.

– Maybe, it should have been better if I had entrusted to the Slayers to defeat the Savage after I had retired along with the Imperial Army. Many of those persons weren't ought to do it as it was absurd to not being with their families—the death of Hokuto was avoidable, it was so meaningless.

– There's no way that is true!

Touka declares that raising her voice, she continues her words while her shoulders are trembling.

– Certainly, it was painful that Chichi-ue died, it was a sad event. However, I respect Chichi-ue who died, as he kept fighting until the end for the sake of helping others. It was the same with Haha-ue. I want to live like Chichi-ue. I want to become stronger. That's why Ryūsei, that sword technique, to me—teach me about *Zaneizan*!

– What are you saying? I already taught you something like that, isn't it?

– Eh...?

*BACHI BACHI*, her eyelids blink in a surprised way.

– It's just that you have the blood of the Kenzaki running in your veins, and the sword skill that you have is already high. After this, and as I did earlier, in the case that you practice so that you aim to do the *Zaneizan* to try to use the natural vibration, you will be able to use it at once. If you like, would you attempt it with this sword?

– .....

Receiving the sword from Ryūsei, Touka faces the rock that is in front of her. She closes her eyes, and *BUTSU BUTSU*, she murmurs something.

If you listen carefully, it turned out that it was the slashing technique that uses the natural vibration just like Ryūsei said a moment ago.

—First of all, a long sword.

—Release the second long sword so that it overlaps with the wave made by the first slash.

After muttering that so many times, she closed her eyes and took a deep breath. And, while raising a loud voice, Touka swung down the sword.

– Haaaaaaaaaaaaahh!

– Oh...!

Hayato was wide-eyed as he saw a part of the rock blown off, although it's not at the same level of Ryūsei.

– I did it, I did it!

*PYON PYON* Touka is delightful as she jumps repeatedly.

– Err, even to Hokuto took him about half a month to get this far..., well, you almost did it perfectly for being done once.

Ryūsei didn't think that she could do it at the first time too.

He was talking like he was surprised.

– Ryūsei—no, Shishō! Thanks for teaching me such a technique! With this, I can also fight the Savage!

– Nay, you are getting carried away as expected.

Ryūsei shook off his hands like a sword on the head of Touka.

– It may be a success, but its level is far from being able of being used on the battlefield yet. Because that sword will kill for you, you need to polish your skill more.

– Ah... um... I comprehend... then will I receive this sword?

– That is like a memento of Hokuto. You should keep it at your side. Besides, there's already another one in the warehouse. And because this belonged to Hokuto, you should have it.

– Is that true!? Thank you, Ryūsei!

Touka seems to be very happy.

And so, looking at that charming figure,

– Next is Hayato, I have to earnestly request a favor to you.

– 'A favor'? What is it?

He had the presentiment that it is a little unpleasant.

– Can I entrust this to you, to look after Touka in Warslan?

– ...he?

– Ryūsei, what is that thing you are saying!?

Asks Touka, following the dumfounded facial expression that was floating on Hayato's face.

– I originally intended to request it today. Touka has that type of personality, that if you leave it by herself, she will not know what to do. If the Savage appears in the vicinity, there is a possibility that she is going to fight them right on the spot by her own accord. You had better take care of her in a proper place.

– It may be as you say and also, Touka is not a Slayer, and also there is thing



like the Savage's virus—.

If she keeps fighting, there is a possibility that it will be the same as her father Hokuto.

– For that reason, I think that you should go to Warslan. In Warslan, they should have a higher technology to support your own strength than me or the Imperial Army.

– But, I can't do anything by my own will.

– Ok then, all I have to do is to propose this and discuss it with your superiors. So if that's allowed, then you could do it.

– Certainly, it can be done that way but...

– Assuming that you return to where Sasagawa-san is, then the battlefield that were you are heading will not change. Anyway, I'm counting on you.

– ...Sasagawa-san?

I wonder who that person is.

– His father has deceased, he was a close friend and a good-natured old man. Before she came to me, Touka lived and trained at Sasagawa-san's dōjō. As a matter of fact, the mother of Touka died several years after the death of Hokuto.

– Oh, that thing happened.

In addition, it's said to be caused by the virus. It was the influence for the continuing deep relationship that she had with the infected Hokuto. Besides, there were no other relatives, and nobody was going to be the caretaker of Touka that could have been infected with the virus too.

That's why Ryūsei took charge of her, because he could not raise children, so he asked to the good-natured old man who was an old friend of him.

– Anyway, if Touka stays here for even one second or minute, I'll be troubled. To be honest, I'm at my limit. Because I knew that this would be the case, I have entrusted Touka to Sasagawa-san.

– Limit? About what?

– Yeah, about what?

Following Hayato, Touka tilts with her head.

– Hayato, lend me your ears for a minute.

Saying that, Ryūsei moved his index finger like saying ‘come here’ and so, he brought near his face close to the ears of Hayato.

– Even though she is my brother’s daughter, she resembles so much to her beautiful mother, and sensing that she is having a very nice growth, it’s very hard for me to endure it... you understand me, right?

– I disagree, what are you talking about, Shishō...?

– That’s why I’m saying that as it is, I might attack at any moment. I don’t think that I can endure it anymore. I even forget that she is the daughter of my brother, Tonight might be finally the day that I’ll attack...

– No no no...

This is really bad. What should I do?

– Besides, I can’t bring other women as she is living here. That being said, I’m counting on you, Hayato.

It seems like that is his real intention, I guess.

Ryūsei breathed with a sigh while he stroke briefly the back of Hayato.

## Chapter 3: Motomatsu Base *The three subordinates*

### Hostile attacks have begun

The day before the predicted day of the *Third Attack*. Hayato was relaxing, lying on the bed in the room prepared at the base.

– I can finally feel a little of peace.

Amidst the chaos in the world, without thinking he murmured like that, but it was definitely the fault of Touka.

From the sword from his Shishō, Kenzaki Ryūsei, there was nothing to be relaxed about after having been told that Warslan would not take care of Kenzaki Touka, the only child of his deceased elder brother, Kenzaki Hokuto.

[What on earth are you thinking!?!]

For starters, Hayato decided to inform Claire about Touka on the spot because there was a consultation as to whether she would take them back to Little Garden or not. An angry voice was coming back.

[For what purpose did you go to Yamato? You should know that!]

– Eh, Umm.... of course....

The development was as expected. To that extent, Hayato makes a bitter smile.

[Then, why would you contact me like this? I feel anxious to say the least, rather than giving her hints on how to fight well, you want to return and to take the girl who yearns for you as a master to Little Garden]

– He is not Shishō. Shishō is Ryūsei and so Hayato is Shinshishō\*!

**\*TN: Literally new master.**

[That is not what I am talking about! Besides Shinshishō, what in the world does that mean!?!]

Claire puts a tsukkomi in full power the moment Touka butted into the

conversation.

Laughs can be heard from behind. Those are from Charlotte Dimandius, <Technical Director> *Main Technologist* of Little Garden.

[Now now Claire, calm down yourself. Although even if it is Hayato-kun, he won't necessarily put his hands on a young girl other than his little sister, isn't it?]

[What reason do you have to say that kind of thing—]

[Hahaha, it's a joke. For the time being, how about deciding to treat her after we successfully overcome the *Third Attack*? First give your head some time to cool down]

Coincidentally, Hayato thinks that he was saved because she was near Claire. If it wasn't for that, the conversation would have been further complicated.

[I agree]

And so, after a short pause, Claire continued.

[Kisaragi Hayato, the things that are in front of your eyes at the moment, do them right. To overcome the *Third Attack* safely. Because, that is the mission imposed on us now. Understood?]

– Oh! Such a very beautiful lady.

– Wa, Shishō!

Ryūsei, was getting closer from the back and when he noticed, he snatched easily the PDA from Hayato.

[What, what kind of thing are you—]

Suddenly seeing Ryūsei appearing on the terminal screen, who wouldn't get perplexed, right?

The surprised voice of Claire is heard through the speaker.

– Nice to meet you, *Miss Claire*. I am currently Hayato's Shishō, Kenzaki Ryūse—

– I'm sorry President, until then!

Hayato quickly disconnected the line, picking up the PDA from Ryūsei who tried to introduce himself with a posed look.

– Shishō, please stop saying strange things so suddenly!

– Hahaha, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. By the way, that the deal with Touka will be decided after the *Third Attack*, then that it's dejected...

– 'Dejected'... what thing is dejected?

– Actually yesterday, you may have heard it from Ryōko-san, I got in touch with a certain woman.

– 'A certain woman'...

– That's the woman that I'm aiming for now.

– Ah, yes...

– In other words, that's the woman that wants to be my lover. She will come to my mansion tomorrow. She is afraid of the *Third Attack* and so we will stay together until it passes. There is a person in here who is a girl. Even if I explain it to my elder brother's daughter, there is a possibility that it might be suspiciously strange. The explanation is a bothersome, and it is difficult to do this and that.

– In any case this and that, in other words, what you are saying is that you don't want to keep Touka in this place.

– You sure know it well, isn't it? You became an adult, Hayato.

Laughing with a *HAHAHA*, he strongly hit his shoulder.

– By saying that, we will ask properly to Ryōko-san.

– In short, until the *Third Attack* is over, what Shishō does really want to say is that either way Touka will be under the care of the institution?

– That's right.

Smiling with a grin, Ryūsei said.

– All things said, thanks for your consideration, Hayato.

– Yup, thanks for your help, Shishō!

– A few moments ago you said something, it was Shinshishō, what does it mean, that...

– It was Ryūsei who gave me the sword of Chichi-ue and who taught me sword techniques. That's why Ryūsei is Shishō. From now on and after this in Warslan, Hayato must teach me how to combat against the Savage. That's why Hayato is Shinshishō!

– I disagree, it's ridiculous, that...

– That's no good, Shinshishō.

– Look, even Ryūsei is saying it!

– Shishō, please do not incite strange things...

However, Touka never bends once she had decided on something.

– Well then Shinshishō. Let's go to where Shinshishō lived!

Eventually the way of how is he called will not change, and so Hayato left the dōjō with Touka, and headed to the institution where he lived for many years.

\*\*\*

– Shinshishō, Shinshishō!

It's around the morning of the third day in Yamato that they were invited to the institution. Hayato felt over the futon together with the voice of an energetic girl, the weight was the same that he felt yesterday. And then, a sweet fragrance from somewhere—.

– ...when—

When he moved his eyes once opened, it is the appearance of Touka who's on top of his lower body, although it is over the comforter.

– You, what are you doing!?

In a panic, Hayato shouted, raising his upper body.

Then Touka leaned forward her body while expressing a delightful smile on her face. Because of that, the distance between their two faces has approached to the point where their breaths seems to touch each other.

– Shinshishō has finally woke up! Let's do practice!

– Prac, practice?

– Yes, morning practice. Because if it's from Shinshishō, it must be done every morning, right!?

– I disagree, that's wrong...

Anyhow, it is about time to go to the institute. I have not been there since I went to Little Garden.

Sometimes at night, I do that with Emilia\*.

**\*TN:** たまに夜、エミリアとやるくらいだ, *Can't understand if it has another meaning or not.*

– Is that so? If that's the case, then today put a special training, Shinshishō!

– Err, first move away a little.

To separate their distance he tries to push the shoulder of Touka who's getting way too close to his face.

But that hand hit the chest of Touka. \*FUNYU\*, the feeling of softness and warmth of the skin are transmitted to his palm.

– Shi, Shinshishō... what on earth are...?

Her face turning bright red, Touka is taken aback.

– Do, don't tell me, that you are going to rape me just like you did to the other women!?

Hastily shaking off the hand that hit her chest, Touka crossed her arms to hide her breasts, and turned her back to Hayato.

– You are wrong! Or perhaps I should say, who are those 'other women'!?

– Ryūsei told me that Shinshishō have been raping a lot of women...

Touka said while turning her head.

That face has tearful eyes.

– No no... because what Shishō was saying is a joke.

– Mu, is that so?

– Yeah.

– Since I’m not going to be raped, then are we turning on to practice?

– No, your sword skill is more than enough. In that respect, I say that there’s nothing else that I can teach you.

– Then, show me Shinshishō’s Hundred. I’m devoting myself to the sword of Chichi-ue, what I want is to receive the Hundred of Shinshishō.

– That’s a shame, because that can’t be.

– Mu, why is that?

– For the time being, I’m forbidden to use my Hundred. That’s in order to preserve *sense energy* to face the *Third Attack*. That’s the reason why yesterday I didn’t attack you, because I didn’t deploy my armament.

– I don’t care if it is with a bamboo sword or a wooden sword, anything is good. What I need is a real fight! If the morning is no good, then the noon is fine too! I entrust to Shinshishō that decision.

– But, it is absolutely necessary for me to leave in approximately two hours from now.

– Mu, but why?

Touka is dumbfounded.

Looking at such reaction, Hayato soon noticed that he did not convey the schedule for today. And then that Hayato’s vacation is until today. Currently he is on a standby state towards the imminent *Third Attack*. For that reason he will be picked up to Motomatsu Base after ten o’ clock today.

– There are preparations, so I’m out of time to stick to practice.

– If so, then please take me to Motomatsu Base as well. With the sword of Chichi-ue, and using the Kenzaki Secret Style *Zaneizan*, I expect that my strength will grow now.

– That’s impossible. *Zaneizan* it’s not perfect yet, even the President just said that it is once the *Third Attack* ends. Moreover, I don’t have such authority.



– Muu.

Touka inflated her face in dissatisfaction.

– It seems that there is only a way to convince to the ones who have the authority of my power. Then for once, I'll be having a somewhat special training!

That said, Touka left the room with a dash.

– 'Special lesson'... what on earth is she planning?

He didn't know well, but Hayato was relieved to be released. He went down from the bed, and head towards the dining room. The table was surrounded by children who were eating bread. But in it, he can't see the figure of Touka.

– Good morning, Hayato-kun.

– Good morning.

Hayato returned the greetings to Ryōko and continued.

– Don't you know where Touka is?

– She told me that went outside to do special training. I wonder if it is just practice-swinging.

– Oh, is that so...

– When I look at that girl, it reminds me a little to Hayato-kun in the old days.

– I, did I do such a thing?

– It was around the time when you began to attend the place of Kenzaki-san. Karen-chan always cried because of that. 'Nii-san took a sword' she said.

– Ahaha...

– But, thanks to that, Hayato-kun became a Slayer, and this institution could be rebuilt. It may be possible that Touka-chan most certainly will do the same thing. Great efforts bear fruits.

– Is it something like that?

– It is something like that.

As there aren't any particular sounds, Hayato decided to have breakfast. Then

he went back to the room, and as he finished changing his clothes, the dorm's chime echoed. It seems to be Warslan that came to pick him up. Hayato leaves the room and heads to the entrance. Thereupon, Touka was bowing her head down while pressing three fingers of each hand on the floor.

– Are you Shinonome-dono? If you don't mind, I'd like you to take me with Shinshishō to fight against the Savage. I can fight against the Savage. I'll be more than helpful.

– Ummm....

It is justified that Mika is perplexed by the sudden petition of Touka,

– I am sorry, Shinonome-san. Touka abruptly saying something like that...

In a hurry, as Hayato said that he gets in between those two people.

– Ooh, Shinshishō. Your preparations are in good order to head to the battlefield. I was pleading to Shinonome-dono to go to Motomatsu Base together with Shinshishō—.

– Stop it, don't you see that Shinonome-san is troubled?

– No, it is okay. Moreover Hayato-kun, can you explain something for me? Who is this child?

– Umm, to be honest...

It is troublesome, but it can't be helped since it has become like this. Then Hayato explain to Mika about Touka.

– In other words, what you are saying is that she is not a Slayer, right?

– Yes

Hayato nods.

It seems that the situation has turned out for the worse.

– But, as I said earlier, I can fight the Savage, please look!

Touka who stood up as she says so, with a small running goes towards the place of the rock that is on a side of the dormitory.

– Please watch. Even without Hundred, I will show you the evidence that I can

fight the Savage!

Touka who raised the sword overhead by saying so, releases slashes using the natural vibration taught by Ryūsei, crushing the rock. The execution is more perfect than yesterday.

The institution is, where she finally displayed a perfect *Zaneizan* as of now, it seems.

– How was it!?

Incredible, right? It's what is saying the facial expression that is showing Touka. But, Mika was showing a troubled appearance.

– How to say it...

That reaction would be natural as well.

– I can't take a child who is not a Slayer to fight. Also, in the story of Hayato-kun, if you wait until we can overcome the *Third Attack* successfully, you might be able to go to Little Garden, right?

– But I, just like Chichi-ue, I want to fight to protect this world. The *Third Attack* is an unparalleled opportunity...

– Touka-chan, that's no good, you'll just be a hindrance to the work of Hayato-kun.

– Ryōko, Oba-san...?

Ryōko was holding a hand on the shoulder of Touka from behind.

– I was talking about selfishness, but you may not be able to go to Little Garden, don't you agree? And if such a thing happens, then won't Touka-chan be further away from her goal?

– That could be as you say...

– If so, you'd better withdrawn obediently here. That person, will protect it for you.

– Uu...

As expected from the head of the institution. She is used to deal with children.

– Ryōko-san, please take care of Touka.

– Of course.

– Well then, with this I.

– Are you going, Hayato?

– Will the Earth be okay?

– It will be okay.

Hayato said while stroking the head of a child stuck on his feet that had an anxious expression.

– No matter what happens, I'll do it somehow.

– Really?

– Yeah. Even the Savage, there's nothing to worry about. So, listen to what Ryōko-san says, and if something happens, evacuate properly.

As Hayato says that, he smiled to the children.

Upon that, the boys' facial expressions became brighter.

– Ok, I understand!

– Hayato, do your best!

– Good luck!

– Yeah.

And so Hayato was sent off by the children, Ryōko and Touka who seemed to be worried but still with discontent, and so he together with Mika headed to Motomatsu Base.

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– Hayato-kun, do you have a minute?

– ...n?

What is it?

Suddenly *TON TON*, a sound could be heard on the door of Hayato's room after a voice was calling for him, and that is a staff member of Warslan

Company, it was Shinonome Mika, the one who serve as the Commandant of this base.

– No problem. What's the matter?

When Hayato answers, the door of the room opens and Mika comes in.

– The sortie standby condition is over.

– ...oh, so fast?

The meeting and training with team members are going on after returning to Motomatsu Base yesterday, and it should have been a day off today.

– Yes, I'm afraid.

Mika answers with a subtle expression.

– The first wave seems to be approaching sooner than expected. It looks like that there is a high possibility that one of this masses will fall into the range of this base. So, can you be prepared immediately?

– Understood. I will change immediately into a Variable Suit.

– Good. As soon as you finish changing your clothes, please come to the front of the hangar. I will report the strategy there.

Saying that, Mika left the room at once.

I wonder if she went and told the same story to the other members.

(Now, to change my clothes)

Although I used *sense energy* in yesterday's training, it was a small amount. I slept well overnight and I'm already recovered, I think. My physical condition is perfect. There is nothing wrong.

– ...All right, now.

Hayato who changed into his Variable Suit went out of the room, and decided to move to the front of the hangar as he was told by Mika.

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– Haah! Yaa!

Touka was practicing in front of the institution. The crisis of the earth is

closing in. And yet, there's nothing that she can do.

With the sword of her father that can defeat the long-awaited Savage, even though she is holding in her hands the secret that can be used to fight the Savage, the only that she can do now is to swing her sword—.

Touka stopped swinging, looked up at the sky and muttered.

– I want to fight, just like my father...

But then what should I do, thinks Touka.

(Shinshishō said that he headed to Motomatsu Base...)

I know its location.

It should be around twenty kilometers to the south of this institution.

(20 kilometers, huh...)

If it's such a distance, if I run then I'll be able to arrive in less than two hours.

(From there, following secretly the moment I'm with the sortie, and then if I defeat one Savage, Shinshishō and the others will surely acknowledge me as a fighting force)

If I do so, then I should be accepted to fight together with them, and then I'll be accepted to be taken to that place called Little Garden.

(Yeah, I have no doubt about that!)

With that decided, she can't stay still. Immediately Touka ran towards the base of Motomatsu.

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When Hayato finished changing clothes to Variable Suit, he went to the front of the hangar where Shinonome Mika was standing up.

– I think those kids will come very soon.

Those kids are, the ones who got together and trained yesterday, those three people are girls that Hayato will command to fight together.

As Mika said, those three people came in less than three minutes.

– Kisaragi-taichō, thanks for waiting.

In response to that voice, Hayato looked back, and he saw the girls dressed in their Variable Suits, coming closer while running.

The girl with the short cut is Kirigakure Yumina. She is a Slayer of the Warslan Company and is a descendant of the ninjas of Iga. Her armament is an Arsenal type, the weapon is sickle and chain\*. Its name seems to be <<Male Giant Serpent>> *Orochimaru*.

**\*TN: Kusarigama (鎖鎌) the weapon.**

He saw the appearance of two girls behind her. The exposure of her shoulders are the same as of Mirai's, and it is obviously different from the other Warslan-Yamato branch soldiers. They wear their Variable Suits, white and red are mixed in, reminiscing the clothes of a shrine maiden in some respects. Tsuzura Mirai and Kurumi Sango—.

They are Slayers belonging to the Slayers training school of the Warslan Company Yamato branch that was formed this year. Both are still in the years of middle school of Little Garden, but their ability is outstanding, and so he heard that they were selected for this interception unit. As much as that, it seems that there are only a few Slayers in Yamato.

— I apologize for taking too long—

Who greeted him with a long paused voice is Tsuzura Mirai. The girl who had short hair is trimmed like reminiscing about someone from the capital of the west, and also her tone is unique. Her home is a Shinto shrine, and the form of her Hundred is a shooter type. The weapon is a bow, and he heard that its name is <<Ice Pillar of Exorcism>> *Hamanotsura*.

Next to her, the last person remaining-A glasses girl who rolls her light brown hair only on one side, Kurumi Sango. She fixedly stared to Hayato with narrow eyes. By the way, her armament is the same as the president, it is a Dragoon type that handles floating batteries. Its name seems to be <<Crimson Dragon Knight>> *Drag Red*.

(I think that I can get along with Kirigakure-san and Tsuzura-san, but I wonder if I can get along with Kurumi-san.)

That concern has existed since yesterday. It was after a while since Hayato

moved from the institution to Motomatsu Base in which he was guided to the prepared room. So there was a prepared time for meeting together with Yumina, Mirai and Sango. After this, they are planning to train together, so that's why the other three are also dressed in their Variable Suit.

– I am a member who belongs to Motomatsu Base, my name is Tsuzura Mirai. I am fourteen years old and I am on second year of middle school. It is an honor to meet you!

– I'm Kirigakure Yumina. I may be four years older than Kisaragi-taichō in terms of age, but I'm a novice with no experience fighting Savage. I'll be under your care and guidance.

– Ah! Thanks. It is I who should say so.

Hayato shakes hands respectively with those two people.

– Come on Sango, say your greetings too.

Incited by Mika, that girl gave her name.

– Kurumi Sango. Like Mirai I'm also in the second year of middle school desuwa.

But that's it. Far away from shaking hands, she narrowed her eyes behind the glasses and kept staring at Hayato for a moment without saying anything.

(Hmm, what shall I do...?)

Being in trouble, Mika came saying from the side.

– Next is Hayato-kun's turn.

– Oh, right. I'm Kisaragi Hayato, I came from Little Garden—.

With the later self-introduction of Hayato, that finished the salutation.

– Errr, Taichō-han, is this thing alright?

It was Tsuzura Mirai who quickly picked up his hands.

– Uhh, what?

– Taichō-han, I heard that you had a fight with the President Claire-han in the famous Little Garden, and in that moment...



– Wa-, wait a moment, Mirai!

In a hurry Sango covered the mouth of Mirai.

– Wa, what are you doing!? Because Sango was worried, I needed to ask him!

– About that story, I will ask that myself masuwa!

Sango flared up to Hayato, pointed her fingertips to him.

– Ki, Kisaragi Hayato! Du-, during that fight, is, is true that you rubbed Cla-, Claire-sama's beautiful and voluptuous bust..., is it true!?

– Eh, no, that...

He was puzzled by the question that he didn't imagine. And then, Sango came closer.

– How can you say that! You, Kisaragi Hayato, rubbed Claire-sama's breasts! To say that you did such an enviable thing, to such thing to be true desuno!

– No, I'm saying that it was an accident...

Without thinking, Hayato answers while drawing attention. To such rumor of the story, to able to get this far, to reach this place—.

– It, it was an accident you say! In other words, it is a fact that you rubbed her desuwane! Kuu, I cannot forgive you wa! All the more to shoot you down in battle—.

– Sango, please calm down. If you shoot down Hayato-kun, then we will not be able to fight the Savage and the whole area will be in trouble, you know?

– There is no problem, only we can defeat the Savage masuwa!

– If we could do that, then they wouldn't have call Hayato-kun.

Mika sighs like she is amazed.

– Kisaragi-han, I'm sorry. Sango's Hundred is a Dragoon type, and the fact that she esteems for President Claire-han. The way she talks is exactly like hers. The truth is she comes from the countryside, and she is not an Ojou-sama.

– Sh, shut your mouth desuwayo! You do not have to say unnecessary things desuwayo!

Looking at that exchange, Hayato thinks ‘Uh huh, so it is such a thing’.

That is why she know things about the battle, and the way she talks must surely be the influence of Claire.

– Hayato-kun, although these are children, the reaction value of their Hundred is very high, and also they’ve piled up battle training. So, be at ease. I think that they will not really attack you.

– No, well, I really appreciate it for that.

He wonders if this is the answer to Karen’s fortune-telling [ill fortune concerning women]. At that time Hayato thought so.

After such a greeting, Hayato immediately decided to train with the three people.

Yamato’s Slayer’s battle technology is high even on a global basis, and among them, he heard from Claire that it is certainly true that the technology is higher than that of other countries’ Slayer in terms of fighting in the sky, and that the three of them had outstanding Hundred’s operating techniques, as well as battle techniques. Besides, even without an *Air Ride*, *thrusters* are attached to the waist at the time of deploying the armament, so they can fly freely around the sky. The training piled up by the three people, the combination is perfect as expected.

They will destroy the balloon balls considered as Savage that are floating in the sky, one after another.

(Really, even if I wasn’t here I think they’ll manage somehow...)

While training along with Hayato, that’s what he thought from the bottom of his heart.

– Well then, once everyone has gathered we will commence to talk about the strategy.

In Mika’s words, Hayato gets back to himself at last. This is not the place to be worrying now. The time for battle is approaching.

– So, the newest information is that the Savages falling in this vicinity are predicted to be five.

– Five? That’s quite a lot, don’t you agree—?

Said a surprised Mirai. Hayato seems to think the same.

In a preliminary prediction stage, the global number of Savage on the *Third Attack* is around three hundred— as this is an island country, it was supposed to not fall down to that degree in Yamato, since is a narrow land area. If there are five out of three hundred in one place, that is indeed considerable.

Ten years ago, Gudenburg was destroyed by three Savage.

– Yup, that’s right. Therefore we are surprised too. Now, what type of Savage will be included, we are figuring out in cooperation with the Imperial Army, the Warslan headquarters and the United Nations. First of all, Hayato-kun can you equip the *Air Ride*?

– Understood.

Hayato moved into the hangar and wore the *Air Ride* on his shoulders.

– Do not try to fly specially without attaching the armor. With such a thing, it will happen the same and separate like it did with the skillful Claire-sama.

– Yeah yeah, it was my bad!

In accordance to what he understood at the moment of the practice, the three girls were armed with *thrusters* on the waist at the same time they deployed their armaments, so they could fly in the skies just with their *HUNDRED ON*.

It’s just Hayato that could not do it.

(But, it is because of the shape of such armament? It cannot be helped)

Apart from the President who can use six floating batteries as *thrusters*, Emilia can also produce a thing like that— besides the armament of four wings that Sakura has, it basically means that Latia, Fritz, and both of the vice-presidents can’t fly.

– Because eliminating it, Hayato-kun can make use of his maximum special characteristics.

Dr. Charlotte said so.

By forcibly *programming* the *thruster* for flight to its original armament, energy consumption will increase unnecessarily and the time to maintain the armament will be shortened.

Therefore, it seems that it is more efficient to equip an *Air Ride* that can use the *thruster* more efficiently by using another *Variable Stone* as a catalyst.

Hayato entered the hangar alone, and with the cooperation of the men working at the base, he equipped the *Air Ride*. The sound alert reverberates during that. It looks like the raid of the Savage is approaching.

– Hayato-kun, could you get ready, right?

Mika comes into the hangar just after the equipment is done.

– Yeah, I'm done.

– Then, let's sortie.

The shutter of the hangar opens. There are three girls standing in the runway with their Hundred armaments deployed. Each one of them, is holding a weapon that matched their shape respectively. Yumina has a sickle and chain. Sango has a gun. Mirai has a bow.

– Sango, which glasses have <HUD> *Head-up display lens*, is the one that will guide you until the target point, so Hayato-kun will follow with the other two afterwards. The instructions after arriving at the target point are left to you.

– Roger that.

– We are leaving as we are falling behind a little masuwayo!

– I understand!

It does get tiring to be rushing every single time in this way. That is way Hayato took a breath after replying. He doesn't have the confidence to take the command successfully.

(But, I have to do it somehow)

Hayato slaps his cheeks with both hands.

– What are you doing desuno? You cannot do it? Feeling bad desuwane?

– I just fired up myself, ok!?

- Anyway, let's do our best.
- Sango, we can't make it in time if we don't charge soon~!
- I know that masuwayo!
- Then Kisaragi-taichō, give us your encourage shout.
- Encourage shout...?

Wandering what it is, Hayato twists his head.

– Members of Warslan Company Motomatsu Base, Savage Interceptor Unit to sortie! Or perhaps that encouraging shout is not what you want?

– Uh huh, as Mirai said. With something like that, I think that it will motivate us.

- ... please say that, Hayato-kun
- Un-, understood.

When Mika prompted him, Hayato cleared his throat and continued.

– Well then, members of Warslan Company Motomatsu Base, Savage Interceptor Unit, to sortie!

And so his three subordinates, following that encouraging shout, flew into the sky together.

- All of you are fast.... But, I won't lose!

Hayato accelerated using *energy*, following the girl who went ahead.

The direction that they are heading is the institution. It is about five minutes after they departed from Motomatsu Base. Then an incoming transmission from Sango who is ahead enters.

[Does everyone hear me? Oh, Kisaragi Hayato won't hear me as I have him separated though]

- I do hear you!

Hayato tentatively gives an answer.

[... Ooh, that's right]

Sango broadcasted lightly, and continued.

[We are gradually approaching the predicted site where the Savage will fall masuwa. We will stop in thirty seconds masuwayo. Understood masuwane?]

– Roger!

– Roger!

– Roger!

Hayato stops, answering like the other two did. The four of them are staying in mid-air. There was a transmission from Mika in there.

[It seems like you have arrived at the standby point. We finally got information about the targets. Like I said before, the number of Savage planned to fall to this area are is five. Every one of them seems to be from five meters to ten meters]

– In other words, are they ‘the usual’?

Hayato thinks that it would not be a big deal if that was the case. Mirai said while seeing through that.

– Hayato-han, you are very composed.

– We, well, if the enemies are the regular ones, I’ve defeated them multiple times...

– So that’s how it is, as one would expect～.

– Wh-, why are you bluffing about something an ordinary thing like that!?

The voice of Sango who said so after Mirai was a little trembling.

(It’s her first battle, I guess she is just nervous...)

The way Sango pretends to be tough, perhaps her blunt attitude may come from nervousness and anxiety. Thinking it that way, she looks cute.

– Wh-, what are you laughing about desuno?

– It’s nothing.

– That somehow makes me angry masuwane.

Immediately after Sango said so. *TO—N, TO—N*, at a fixed interval an

electronic beep began to ring from Hayato's *Vital Ring*

– This, is reacting to the Savage that are approaching, am I right?

[That's right]

Mika replied to Hayato's doubt.

(Sure, the sense of sound is shortened according to the distance of the Savage)

Hayato heard that yesterday. Being suspended in that spot, the four people are looking up at the sky, and immediately the feeling of the electronic sound gets shorter.

[After having come this far, I'll leave the rest to you. I wish you good luck]

Together with that words, the communication with Mika ceased. Then it was Sango who raised her voice.

– Just now, I caught the objective with the *camera* of my HUD wayo. The first one to invade is, a regular Savage with a three meters in length, the defensive membrane is expanded to cover its body masuwa.

Studied in Little Garden, the defensive membrane is for loosening the impact when entering the atmosphere and when landing on the ground. Of course the three subordinates of Hayato also know that.

– The fall estimation point will be inside the forest masuwane. As there are no buildings in there, there is nothing wrong with dropping a Savage's dead body, don't you agree? Therefore, the objective is the destruction of the core—in that case, I will commence masuwa!

– Hey, Sango! Wait!

Without listening to Yumina's stillness, Sango pierces the clouds and raises altitude further to the sky, approaching the Savage.

– Hayato-dono, what shall we do?

Yumina is the one who asked.

– What do we do you say, we can't let that person to go by herself, don't you agree?

– That means that we are chasing after her, correct?

– Indeed.

Hayato answered while facing Yumina. Already the distance between Sango and the Savage is less than a hundred meters. It seemed that she could get closer in a matter of seconds.

The Savage, which was heading in the opposite direction to Sango, rose up from within the membrane, changed the direction of its body and opened its head.

– Bombardment is incoming!

– I know masuwayo, all of you are noisy desuwane!

Immediately after Sango replied, a bombardment was released from the mouth of the Savage. At the same time, Sango released the same yellowish green energy color of Claire from the *thruster* and then threw the gun in the sky, transforming it into four floating batteries.

– Let's go, *Drag Red*!

The floating batteries scattered around the body of the Savage and released shots successively, but none of them could penetrate the defensive membrane.

– If that's the case, what about this desuno!

As the floating batteries were commencing the attack, Sango who was close to the side of the Savage return the four floating batteries back to *Buster Cannon* and aim at the Savage.

And so she could finally make a hole, although the size of the core of the Savage is around fifty centimeters.

[Now desuwayo, Yumina-san!]

– Acknowledged!

Answered Yumina who was rotating *Orochimaru* as its counterweight was doing *BUZZ BUZZ*. There is no obstacle between Yumina and the Savage, as Sango have risen to the sky.

– Here I go— haaa!



Yumina throws the counterweight with concentrated *energy*, aiming at the hole of the defensive membrane that started gradually to regenerate. It hit the defensive wall by magnificently slipping through the hole in the defensive membrane.

– As expected of Yumina-san, a perfect blow!

Mirai gives a voice of delight when seeing that the counterweight of *Orochimaru* destroyed not only the *shelter*, but the core too.

A communication from Mika jumped in as the corpse dropped into the forest.

[Well done, you guys. But, it is bad to lose focus. The next raid is approaching]

– Of course we understand masuwayo.

Sango look towards up in the skies.

– I have just confirmed the next Savage with my HUD. It is slightly bigger than the one just before desuwane.

– Taichō-han. It is alright if I try it too?

– Uhm, well... I guess so.

Hayato answered, being shaken by Mirai.

– Then, I will do it too.

As she said so, Mirai set the ice arrow that it suits the light blue color of her *energy* to the bow that she had in her hands.

– The alignment is completed—so go, *Hanamotsura*!

The released ice arrow explodes at the same time it touches the defensive membrane of the Savage.

– How's that!?

Just after muttering, Mirai narrowed her eyes.

– Mirai, run away! Bombardment is incoming!

Sango shouted. It seems that her HUD can perceive heat sources. That meant that the attack of Mirai couldn't destroy the membrane.

– ...woah!

Mirai dodge's the bombardment of the Savage by a hair's breadth, and shoots her *Hanamotsura* again. It is a second attack on a weakened membrane. The ice arrow destroyed Savage's membrane.

– Well done, Mirai. Then I will do it too!

Screaming, Yumina released the weight of *Orochimaru* toward the Savage. However, it is not aimed at the defensive membrane. She wreathed the chain of the *Kusarigama* around the arm of the Savage. Yumina then attracted Savage's body and aimed for Savage's core with the sickle.

– Incredible...

Again, it hits. The defensive barrier of the core is destroyed.

– As expected of Yumina desuwa! Kisaragi Hayato, you have done nothing at all!

– Certainly, that's true...

*Hahaha*, he can only laugh. Certainly, he thinks to himself that he didn't do nothing. And there was a transmission from Mika.

[It is ok to be excited but, the invasion has not ended yet!]

– I, I understand masuwayo!

Like being flustered, Sango answered with her face turned red.

[The next three will come at the same time. Among them, one is three kilometers away from this location... no, this, it's in the center of the city!]

– Wait what!

[That is the largest of the five, the Savage that's approaching first. Estimated fall time is two minutes more— no, one minute! We should be able to confirm it by naked eye soon!]

When they heard those words, Hayato and the others looked up at the sky all together.

– It is that desuno?

– It's really huge, huh?

Hayato muttered while confirming the falling Savage with his own eyes.

The total length will be about twice the normal type. Although it may not be less than ten meters, it is fine to say that it is a dreadnaught type.

– If such a thing falls into the city it will surely turn into a disaster masuwayo!

[Yeah, therefore, that's why I need you to... will you do it?]

– There's no need to being told, as there's no choice but to manage it somehow! Mirai, I will change the falling point by pushing the Savage with a full power bombardment of my *Buster Cannon* I hope you can destroy the defensive membrane with your *Hanamotsura*.

– Roger! Let's go *Hanamotsura*!

But then, it was impossible to destroy the defensive membrane.

– No good, it looks considerably hard because of that size!

– If so, then I to each of its defensive membranes...!

It looks like the injection of *energy* to the *Buster Cannon* has ended.

– Full power bombardment— eat this!

Sango's bombardment hits the defensive membrane of the Savage.

– You did it!?

Yumina shouts.

– Nope, it did nothing.

Mirai is the one who said so.

– Although it went through the defensive membrane, it's no more than that. Moreover, the hole is not that big. And the regeneration has already begun.

– What do we do? If it keeps falling, it will be a very hard thing to deal with.

– All the more we should get down to ground level and snipe it—

– Then, I'll go!

– “I'll go”, what are you saying masuno! With your speed, you will not make in—

– I'll manage it somehow!

*DOKUN*, Hayato's heart beat fast.

(There's no other choice!)

If he must use the power of the *Variant*, then it can only be now. Hayato's eyes changed to golden color.

– Here I goooooooooooooooooo!!

Hayato who full throttled his *thrusters*, aims for the Savage, rushing while pointing it with the tip of his sword.

– ...It's a lie, right?

Sango muttered with her eyes wide open in amazement as she looks to Hayato who released *energy* from his whole body and shortened the distance with the Savage in a blink of an eye.

– As expected of Taichō-han. He is amazing desunaa~

Continued Mirai who raised her voice.

Splendidly, *Hien* of Hayato not only penetrates the skin, it also breaks through the abdominal steel shell, rather than just the Savage's defensive membrane.

– No, but that is far from ending there.

That's what Yumina said with a grim look in her face.

– If the Savage is knocked down as it is, when they fall together, it will cause damage to above ground.

– If, if that's the case than what are going to do, Kisaragi Hayato!

– That's— like this!

Along with that, a fierce *energy* was also emitted from the *Air Ride*, pushing the Savage down to the mountain two kilometers ahead. That force was so tremendous, that it collided with the hill side of the mountain, the cloud of dust that raised was similar to a missile that was shot.

– Ow ow ow...

It was natural that the whole body of Hayato received the impact. His body

hurts.

However, that doesn't mean that he gave the final blow to the Savage with his sword. Hayato, who released the *Variant* state, pulled out the sword from the Savage's body and stabbed the tip of *Hien* using *energy* in both hands towards the defensive barrier of the Savage that was in a state of shock after receiving the impact.

A fluorescent liquid spout out.

– Fuuu...

Hayato wiped the sweat off his forehead after confirming that the Savage was no longer moving.

– Taichō-han, amazing! You are amazing~!

The voice reached directly into the ear. He looked up at the sky, and he saw the figure of Mirai.

On the contrary, while she was falling down, she clung to Hayato.

– Such incredible energy that you used in there, I was truly astonished!

– Mirai, get away from that man at once. You will get pregnant masuwayo!

Subsequently the voice that he heard, it was not through the use of the *Vital Ring*. Looking at Sango and Yumina who also are coming down from the sky as if following Mirai, Hayato asked.

– You over there... what about the remaining two Savages?

– Our priority is to check the safety of Taichō, so we have not dealt with them. The commander also acknowledged it.



Answered Yumina.

- In other words, the remaining two have fallen into the forest, correct?
- Therefore, Kisaragi-taichō, if there is no problems with your health, we should head to annihilate the Savages, don't you agree?
- Right, let's do that. Shinonome-san, can you hear me?

[Yes, I hear you]

– Thank you for worrying about me. I am alright now, so we will head to annihilate the Savage.

[Roger. Take care]

- Understood.
- Ok then, let's go.

Yumina is the first to rise to the sky. Hayato and the others float in the sky shortly. The place where the Savage fell on the ground was seen as soon as he was floating in the sky. It is because the surrounding trees are collapsed and become like craters. Hayato descends to one side of them. The forest is surprisingly thick.

He is supposed to be by the side, but the figure of the Savage cannot be found.

– I'm going to check it from the sky masuwa. Depending on the situation, it may be perceived by HUD.

The floating Sango declared so. Hayato and company roam with their eyes looking around restlessly the surroundings overhead. And then, she stopped naturally at a certain point.

– The Savage, was here.

Said Sango, falling and putting her feet on the ground.

– That direction. It's around 500 meters from here desuwa.

And so Sango points with her finger in the direction where the Savage is. At the same time that he turned his face in that direction, Hayato's face became particularly stiff. The reason is that the Savage was rushing vigorously towards them.

- Impossible, it have noticed us—.
- Everyone, dodge it!
- Even if you don't say it, I know that masuwayo!

Hayato and the rest scattered and dodged it, they immediately recovered their stance and changed to offensive.

– *Hamanotsura!*

The one who started to attack first was Mirai. But the ice arrows scattered as they hit the defensive barrier.

– My turn!

Sango fires a shot and then changes her *Buster Cannon* into four floating batteries surrounding her body. However, it seems that wasn't enough. Although the defensive barrier contains a crack, the destruction was not effective.

– That being the case, I...!

The Savage reverses the body. Hayato was concentrating *energy* in his feet, presuming that the next attack would be probably a bombardment. The Savage launches the bombardment, trying to set off an attack aiming at the gap just before that. As expected, the Savage raised its body and opened its head.

(Now!)

In order to accelerate, Hayato tried to detonate the *energy* that had in his feet.

In that same instant.

– Haaaaaaaaaaaaa!

A girl wearing a kendo uniform and with miraculous eyes, emerged from the forest while shaking the ponytail of her flame-like hair, approaching directly to the location of the Savage, without hesitation. Immediately afterwards, she swung down the sword from the upper left corner to its abdomen.

– Wha...!?

Hayato doubted his eyes. That would be natural as well.



– What, what is Touka doing in here!?

Certainly, it is incomprehensible.

– Take this— Kenzaki Secret Style *Zaneizan*!!

The body of the Savage was sent flying in the back by the power of the sword that was swung down.

(That of now...)

There's no doubt.

The technique created by Ryūsei, his Shishō, to use against the Savage. It is a sword technique that uses natural vibration to swell the ordinary attack more than twice. The Savage, which was blown backwards while bringing down many trees, is in a forward-bent posture. As now this is a chance, Touka instantly went after that big body and decided to aim to the defensive barrier of the head.

– Look! Even if I can't expand a Hundred, I can still fight the Savage!

She jumps in front of the Savage, and Touka started to attack the Savage's defensive barrier. The first blow is an ordinary slash. However, the second strike that was released shortly afterwards, stands vertically and the sword rotates abruptly in her hands. That also was a slash using natural vibration, the sword destroyed the defensive barrier and stabbed the core of the Savage. The movement of the Savage is interrupted.

Touka pulls out the sword and to not be bathed in the overflowing fluorescent liquid, she landed on the ground after rolling over the Savage's dead body.

– You saw that, Shinshishō!? Moreover, those people are Slayers! I wonder if they have realized that I have the power to become a member of Little Garden!

Touka who stood up turned the tip of the sword towards Hayato and snort her nose proudly.

– Well, umm...

Hayato thinks *what's the deal with this?*

First of all, what should I ask, I wonder?

– Taichō-han, do you know her?

Hayato answers with a bitter smile to Mirai who asked.

. Yeah, kind of.

– ...ah, that! There is something behind that girl masuwayo!

The one who shouted was Sango. Hayato too notices that something is running after Touka from the back.

– Touka, move away!

Due to Hayato's voice, Touka also noticed that being, but it was a bit late to start moving. That something grazes the right shoulder of Touka who tried to avoid it.

– —agh!!

Touka crouches, and holds down the wound on her shoulder.

What is it that attacked her at the speed like a released arrow? As it landed on the ground, Hayato and the others understood.

—— It's a wild dog.

Those are the claws of the paw that grazed Touka's shoulder. But, he knew at first glance that it was not just a common wild dog.

*DARADARA*, Saliva is spilling from its mouth, and its eyes are dyed with a shining fluorescent color.

– Is that a Savage, I think?

– But I have never heard of a Savage that looked like a dog!

Both Mirai and Sango show disturbed faces. At that time, through the mind of Hayato passed by his classmate Alphonse and his Hundred Tamer type. But the appearance of the dog in front of his eyes and the *Silver Blitz* of Alphonse are not alike at all. Be that as it may, the color of the dogs' skin is black and it looks like Savage's steel shell, hair is growing in tufts, and the skin looks soft as well. It is very different from *Silver Blitz* which is hard to the touch and has no hair.

– ...if it comes to the end, it is possible, but you can eat pieces of Savage's core that have fallen in the vicinity and mistakenly eat them as food. Because of

that, I have heard that there is a possibility of an atrocious transformation.

– In other words, that wild dog is possibly infected with the Savage virus...

– I think that possibility is high.

Immediately Mirai responded to Hayato's doubt.

*FUHFUH*, the wild dog bares its fangs, and with an agitated breathing kicks off the ground and attacks Touka again, jumping.

This time it had a big mouth open. If she gets hurt, it will be a serious thing.

– Taichō, please leave this to me.

Yumina said that to Hayato who is trying to help. She quickly released the weight of the sickle and chain at the wild dog. That was magnificent, the weight hits the body of the wild dog.

– Kyaunh!

The wild dog screamed and collapsed completely.

– ...I'm sorry.

Yumina headed where the wild dog is lying, to give it the finishing blow with the sickle. *BIKUBIKU*, its body is twitching over the clump of bushes where it fell over.

– Poor thing, it can't be helped...

Muttered Mirai.

She piles her left and right palms in front of her chest and prays in a Yamato style.

– If we leave it as it is, there is a possibility that the infection will spread further, we must cover it perfectly for the sake of mourning it. Sango, make a hole with your floating batteries.

– Understood.

Sango makes a hole in the ground with a shot, and Yumina buries the corpse. In the middle of that, Hayato approaches where Touka is and asks her.

– Are you okay?

– I’m okay... aghh...

Touka replies seemingly that way, but she didn’t look like that. It is because Touka is pressing her shoulder and has a painful facial expression.

– Show me the wound.

– I’m telling you that there is no problem, okay!?

Touka stands up, thrusting away the body of Hayato who was approaching. And then-.

– Shinshishō, look over there.

The place to where Touka’s eyes are looking at. They can see the remaining Savage in a small place, which is located two hundred meters away.

– I’m going to show you exactly as I’m telling you that I’m okay!

– Hey, wait!

Shaking free from the restraints of Hayato, Touka begins to run.

But the pain in her shoulder seems to be higher than what she thought.

– ...kh, aagh...!

Instantly she raised her voice, moaning and crumbling on the ground as if she was cowering.

The Savage probably noticed Touka who emits hostility towards itself. Starting with the sense of touch—.

Then it turned its body and merely opened its head. It is the posture for bombardment.

– This is bad!

If this keeps this way, Touka will receive a direct hit. In a hurry Hayato accelerated using the *thruster* of his *Air Ride* and headed for rescue. The bombardment was released. There’s no enough time to deploy an *E barrier* to block it. But still, Hayato was able to rescue Touka at the last minute. However, he couldn’t completely dodge the beam that was as far as in front of his eyes—.

– Guh!

The beam touched the starboard of the *Air Ride*. Pushed by that power, the body of Hayato rolled over, leaping to the surface of the ground.

(Is Touka, is Touka all right?)

At the same time that stops his movement, Hayato confirms the condition of Touka in his arms. Apart from the shoulder wound done by a wild dog that seemed to be in frenzy by the Variant Virus, it looks that there's no other injuries. Hayato has only injuries to the degree of scratches, Touka that's within his arms continues to release hot long breaths accompanied by a painful look.

– Taichō-han, are you okay?

It was Mirai who asked the question.

– I'm okay, but...

Hayato direct his eyes to Touka. What resounded there was the voice of Sango.

– Kisaragi Hayato! Standing there doing nothing, a bombardment of a Savage will come again masuwayo!

– I know.

Answering, Hayato turns his glance to where the Savage is.

(First of all, I can't leave her like this...)

Hayato directed his eyes to Mirai who was on the side.

– Mirai-san, may I entrust you with Touka?

– Absolutely.

That being the case, Hayato stands up, leaving the body of Touka to Mirai. The *Air Ride* on the back is tattered by having received Savage's bombardment and rolling on the ground. He tried to use the *thruster* but does not work properly and in this state it is unlikely to shoot a beam or a missile. In that case then it would be just a hindrance to carry it, so Hayato purged the *Air Ride*, and got in a state of lightness. In there, he heard far away the voice of Yumina.

– Kisaragi-taichō, a Savage's bombardment is coming again!

– I will block it masuwa!

– No, that’s fine. Leave it to me.

Saying that to Sango, who was creating a gun with the four floating batteries and tried to launch an attack, Hayato lays *Hien* to the side and puts an *E barrier* in front of him. After defending the Savage’s bombardment, he immediately turned to attack.

– Uoooooooooh!

Using *energy*, accelerated all at once and jumped. He struck with *Hien*, which pours energy into the head of the Savage, and destroyed not only the defensive barrier, but also the core at once.

Yumina who was watching the situation had her breath taken away and muttered.

– Like before, Kisaragi-taichō is amazing... one blow, and he destroyed the core of the Savage...

– How is the state of Touka?

Hayato who released his armament by confirming that the movement of the Savage stopped, goes walking towards Mirai who holds the body of Touka.

– I-I’m fine...

The one who answered was not Mirai, but Touka.

Touka, looking to Hayato, separates herself from the arms of Mirai, and tries to stand up with her own legs. However, her feet are not settled.

– Hey, you are still not good, Touka-han!

Staggering, Mirai holds with her arms once again the body of Touka who is about to collapse. Approaching there, Hayato looked right to the face of Touka.

– Show me your wound a little.

– What are you doing, Shinshishō! That’s not necessary!

– Listen up and stay still!

Hayato loosened the torso of Touka and exposed the scratched shoulder from the neck.

– Ah...!

Looking at the scar and the skin around it dyed in a pale tone, *DOKUN!* Hayato's heart began to beat fast in a big way.

– Taichō-han, what in the world is this...?

– This is caused by the Savage's virus...

Like a mutter, Hayato replied. His mind goes through the memories of ten years ago—.

The wound done by the Savage's scissors that left a scar on Emilia's chest.

(What to do, what should I do?)

As for the scar itself, the range where the virus erodes and changes color, although it is smaller than Emilia, the discoloration gradually spreads. At that time, Hayato sucked into the wound and accepted the virus inside his body, so that he wandered around the edge of life and death.

(...but, as a result, I became a Variant, and now that power can be controlled)

If it is now, it should not be like the same at that time. He cannot leave it as it is, nor is it the place to hesitate.

– I'll manage it somehow. So, stay still.

With that said, Hayato sucked on the right shoulder of the wounded Touka.

– Nah, Shinshishō... what areh... kuunh...!!

– I told you, don't move! In this way, I saved a fellow who was wounded by the attack of a Savage.

Struggling to hold down the body of Touka who's trying to escape, Hayato sucked into the wound again.

(As usual, it is bitter...)

Bitter sense mixed with the taste of iron. His body gets hot, and his eyes are dazed. But still Hayato kept sucking and spitting out the Variant Virus. By repeating that, he can see that the discolored parts of the skin are getting smaller.

– Fuuh... uh... Shin, shishō... haah, your head, has turned white... n uh... curiously, it seems to be getting...

– All right, it's already over.

Hayato muttered by keeping his face away from the wound.

The discolored places are almost gone.

– Mirai, can I request to you to hold Touka?

– Taichō-han, what on earth was...?

Hayato repeatedly breaths roughly and said while turning his eyes to where the Savage is within the forest.

– I will defeat the remaining Savage.

If he doesn't do that, it is unlikely to suppress the ferocious virus that is rampaging inside his body.

He wants to fight.

He wants to go rampage.

Such feelings are overflowing from the bottom of his heart.

It may be the effect of overdosing with the virus. To begin, Hayato picked up the sword that had fallen on the ground. Continuing, he touched the case attached to the neck of his Variable Suit and took out another Hundred from there.

– <<Double Deployment>> *Dual Act*!

When Hayato cried, the whole body was surrounded by light. His body is completely wrapped in armaments, and on the right hand there is a big black sword—

– Unbelievable desuwayone, full armament and, *Dual Act*, how....

Sango incessantly blinks her eyelids, and raised a surprised voice.

– Well, Kisaragi-taichō can use *Air Ride*. I heard that it's like handling two Hundreds simultaneously.

– That's taichō-han for you!



Mirai cried after Yumina.

Hayato has a black sword on the right and a white sword on the left. Two weapons to attack the Savage. It seems that it noticed the intense *energy* emitted from such a body. The Savage turned its body towards Hayato and was in a shooting stance. But Hayato was not perplexed.

– Taichō-han!

– That man, what on earth is he thinking masuno!?

Mirai and Sango raised their voice looking at the figure of Hayato who jumped into the bombardment. That would be natural as well.

They don't know that he can develop *N barrier* that extinguishes the attacks using *energy*.

However, the current Hayato cannot afford to hide it. Hayato pierces through the bombardment and struck the two swords packed with *energy* aiming at the core behind Savage's defensive barrier. It is a full-force attack while in Variant state. The power of the slash was tremendous, it was enough to gouge the steel shell as well as the defensive barrier and the core.

– I thought that it was amazing to push down a falling Savage to the mountains, but this is, even more amazing...

Yumina muttered, overcome with surprise. Mirai and Sango can't believe it as well, and stare at Hayato who drops his shoulders violently.

– What on earth he really is desuno? Also, those eyes...

Apparently Sango seems to have noticed that Hayato's eyes are shining golden. Yumina also notices that.

– No way, the rumor of Kisaragi is...

– Rumor? What is it desuno?

– No, It's nothing.

Yumina said to deceive her. That's because she knew the existence of the Variant. However, there is still no confirmation that Hayato is one of them. Besides, there's the possibility of the influence of sucking up the Variant Virus.

That's why she didn't talk about it.

– Other than that, first of all Kisaragi-taichō is...

Yumina again looks to Hayato.

– We won... at last...

Hayato muttered while repeating rough breathing. It is quite conscious and is in a dazed condition. The burning sensation of his body is not settled. The scenery in front of him is more distorted and it is getting dim.

– Damn it...

Hayato tried to keep his posture by piercing the two swords into the ground, but he could not do so.

(It's been a long time, since this...?)

The hands slipped from the handle of the sword, and he was in a forward-bent posture—

At the same time as the color of the eyes returned to the original black, Hayato fell from the front to the ground. At that moment the armament is released, the swords also disappear.

– Kisaragi taichō!

– Taichō-han!

While listening to Yumina and Mirai voice, Hayato's consciousness quickly became farther, swallowed up in the dark.

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– Mother, look at this! I have taken an [A+] in math test!

Judal Harvey, president of Warslan Company, when he was around nine years old. He was visiting the laboratory of his mother, Linis Harvey. It is so she can see the result of the test.

—— [A+] score.

Although Judal's test has a good result showing a perfect score, Linis never showed interest in it. The contents of the test are not suitable for that age.

While studying in middle school he started to skip grades at the age of nine, and takes the exam.

– ...so.

Linis just answered without moving her eyebrows, she settled down in her chair, and kept watching the monitor in front of her with void eyes.

– Maybe mother is tired?

Even though Judal spoke out, there was no reaction. She was concentrating so much on her work that did not recognize him being there.

– Hey, mother.

Judal calls her out again.

Then Linis struck the desk with energy and stood up.

– Done. With this, the attacks done to the Savage should be effective!

– Uh, umm... mother?

– Oh, Judal. What are you doing in here?

– Ah...

When she finally noticed his existence, Judal's face brightened a little and pushed out the exam paper to his mother.

– Mother, look at this! I, got an [A+] in a test. Everyone was older than I, but I was the best!

– ...so.

She glance at the sheets of paper that Judal has presented, and returned them for being boring.

– Apart from that, can you call out to Claire? I want to try something for a bit.

– Eh...?

– Why are you standing there doing nothing? Bring her fast. Now, finally the improvement to the armament went smoothly and I'd like to try it.

– ... Oh, yes. I understand.

Judal left the laboratory feeling dejected and went to call out Claire, as her mother told him.

He told to Claire to go to the laboratory, returned to his room, and Judal lay on the bed and stared at the ceiling.

(How can I, be praised by mother, I wonder...)

After all, taking [A+] in all subjects and skipping grades like his mother, do the other children of the same age have to graduate from college while learning the contents of the elementary school?

When Judal sighed greatly, the door of the room was knocked with a *TON TON*

– Young master Judal, if you excuse me.

The one who said that when the door of the room opened, was a woman dressed in maid uniform.

Est Steinbelt.

It is a maid serving the Harvey family who has just passed the age of twenty years old, and her main jog is to take care of personal belongings and being the private tutor of Judal.

– I'm back, Est.

Judal said, raising his body from the bed.

– Welcome back, young master Judal. Were you off duty?

– Err, no, I was not. Actually, I went to my mother to show her the results of the test but—

Judal told everything to Est, that his mother ignored him and that he did not get praised for taking [A+] in the test.

– Is it maybe that mother hates something of me?

– What are you saying, young master Judal. I do not think that is the case.

– But, mother told me that she was a genius since she was a child, and went to the university at my age, didn't she? I am a failure, because I am not suitable to be a Slayer, which is the reason that mother...

– There is absolutely no way that Judal-sama is a failure.

– Really?

– Yes, I am sure of that. If you continue to keep studying hard, you can graduate from university by the time other students graduate from middle school.

– Then why mother does not get along with me?

– Linis-sama is busy with an important research to save this world. Therefore, please have a little of patience.

– But, mother does really care about Claire, don't you agree!? Unlike Claire, if I touch it, the stuff does not react and the head of my mother does a no good expression...my mother doesn't need me. As a son of Warslan Company, I am not suitable.

– Such a thing is not true.

Est immediately denies Judal's words.

– As I said earlier, you have the qualities so that you can become a splendid successor of Warslan Company. On the contrary, if you work harder, you can be the president of Liberia, no, you can be the president of the moon.

– The moon you say, that is exaggerated.

– I like it. From a long time ago. I dreamt about wanting to go to the moon.

– Is that so?

– Yes...

Saying that, Est proceeded to walk to the up to the window, and then she opened the window. A big moon floats in the night sky.

– Besides, it is not an exaggerated dream. There is a person who actually went to the moon, and even this country is making progress in development on the moon. Moreover, Warslan is cooperating so.

– If it is the case, I will take Est to the moon. I will study for that. I will do my best from tomorrow.

– Really?

– Yup

– I’m expecting it.

When he saw that Est smiled, Judal’s heart became warm.

From that day on, Judal began to study more than ever. Until now it was to make his mother to recognize him, but his purpose has already changed. **It is to fulfill the promise with Est.**

That’s why Judal wasn’t perturbed at all when his mother died. And thus, he graduated from the university at the age of 14. Est was pleased.

– Congratulations, Judal-sama.

– Thanks. Leaving that aside, Est. I’m preparing a vehicle. Because there is a place that I want to go out for a short time, can you go out with me?

– Oh, yes. Understood.

To convey the gratitude to Est, who had been keeping close to him by his side from a long time ago, Judal put reservations for dinner at a luxury restaurant. It is also a reward for his graduation commemoration. When he left the mansion with Est, the hired car was stopped there. It is what Judal prepared. He already told the place to go to the driver.

– Est. get in.

– Oh, yes.

The car started to move as soon as they got in.

– Eh?

It was just after leaving the mansion.

Something flew, the car exploded suddenly and it was wrapped in flames.

– Young master Judal... are you ok?

With the voice of Est, Judal regained his mind.

– What, happened just now...?

Judal asks to Est who is wrapping his body with her arms.

– I do not know. But, I am glad that young master Judal is safe.

At the same time she replies, blood drops from the head of Est.

– Est, your head...

– Ahaha, it's just a little hit. Is young master Judal safe?

– Yeah, I'm fine.

– Then, please get away from here quickly. If the gasoline that has leaked catches fire, it may explode even further.

– Ah...!

With that words, Judal noticed that the fire was already rising. Gasoline may catch fire as it is.

– What are you saying! Est you must also run awa—

– I cannot move.

– Eh...?

– My legs are caught.

Certainly, Est legs were caught between the seat and the body panel of the warped car.

– Wait a moment, I'll manage it somehow!

Just moving through the crushed car is very difficult. Something may hurt his body. Still, Judal tries to lift the body panel holding the feet of Est. But with Judal's strength, he couldn't do anything. The body panel does not budge.

– Damn, if I were a Slayer, and could deploy a Hundred, this would be so easy...!

Judal expression distorts into regret,

– ...Judal-sama, you do not need to be a Slayer.

– Est, what are you saying at a time like this...

Giving a smile, Est continued.

– Please listen to me, young master Judal. The people who are Slayers are still a minority. That's why there are many people who resent that power, but in this world, the existence of Slayers is a need. Now that we know that our clear

enemy are the Savage, there's no doubt about that. That is why we can settle between those who have the power, and those that can be of use to stand at the top of this world. For that, you were born as the eldest son of Warslan Company. If it is the excellent young master Judal, then you will definitely be able to unite this world without losing your position. So, continue your studies from now on—

At that time, the number of Slayers was still a very few, and they were dispatched only to the allies of Liberia. In addition, he had been seeking enormous expenses to the country that had pleaded for dispatching Slayers without leaking Hundred's technology. Due to that secretiveness, seeking help could compromise their funding side, the Slayers were not dispatched frequently, and the criticism against Judal's father, Bill Harvey, the president of Warslan, became strong.

The money monopolizes the technology for world peace and for your own self-interest. Bill said so numerous times. Truly, Hundred and Slayer's power are considerable, but it was a fact that the world could enter in chaos if the technology spreads recklessly, still, even if the Slayers were dispatched, the anger of those who may have lost their homes and families cannot be easily settled.

It was also along those line that the hired car of Est and Judal was attacked. In other words, the attack on the hired car was not aimed to Judal and Est, but it was caused for the resentment against his father, Bill Harvey.

And so, the only person so close to Judal. He lost the woman who loved from the bottom of his heart, which was his support. Those feelings, he couldn't convey them—

— ...again, that dream...

— At the same time he wakes up in the bed, Judal holds his head with one hand. Next to him, a Slayer who serves as his bodyguard, Neveah Grauss, was sleeping naked. Outside is still dark. But Judal does not close his eyelids again, rather, he descends from the bed and goes towards the living room.

In preparation for the *Third Attack*, to endure the nuclear warfare, he was in the underground shelter of the mansion of the Harvey family. Nonetheless, the



underground shelter is luxurious. The interior decoration it's like a suit room of a high class hotel. Judal sat on the sofa without turning on the electricity on the room, operated the touch panel of the PDA, and put it on the desk. Then, the figure of a long red hair wearing a white coat as a hologram appears on the monitor. Vitaly Tynyanov.

She is a scientist and a former lover of Judal. And the terrorist that attacked Little Garden. She glanced at Judal in a defiant look.

– Looks like you had a great time last night.

– What, it was just a reward for all the work of yesterday.

– You truly are a rude man. Playing with the woman who loves you and using them for your own goals. It's been like that since long ago. That doesn't change.

– Don't tell me, might be that you are jealous?

– No, I feel pity. A woman who is in the same position as me, and is being used in this way, even after I lost my body.

Saying that, Vitaly laughed like inflicting damage to herself.

– In any case, with that same attitude, you are probably lying to her too, isn't it? A promise with your mother— the one thing you can't get, the achievement of accomplishing project Lunaltia.

– It seems that you have been talking a little too much, getting carried away. Apart from that, don't come to teach me about love. Has the *Third Attack* started while I was sleeping?

– Uh huh, just as you wished. However, there are quite a lot of Savage than the number expected by <<LiZA>> the first time. More than three hundred are expected to invade. Many are <Superdreadnought> *Trenta*, so you can get hold of a large quantity of cores.

– Even though I appreciate that, I don't want to worry too much. I don't want to use the power of <<LiZA>> if possible. I had to use her pointlessly because of the Joker left behind by you.

– As long as it's nothing to a large extent, Little Garden will be okay. The quality of the Slayers is good. Even if viewed internationally, several cities will

be destroyed and in the worst scenario, around ten percent to a twenty percent of the human race can disappear. Although the dead of Slayers would also come out from this, that won't have an impact on many people.

– Is that so...? If that's the case, let's toast.

Judal relaxes his mouth and broadly grinds, then pours red wine that was left unattended last night into the glass.

– A toast? I'm a non-drinker, you know that.

– Oh, now that you mention it. The first time that I tried to seduce you, I remember that you were a terrible drinker.

*HAHAHA*, he laughed.

– And what are we making a toast for? From there you can't see the moon. And if you drink too much, there is a possibility of shortening your life—

– Judal-sama, you were awake. Have someone called you by telephone?

The voice of Neveah was on the back. Judal, without a moment's delay touches the PDA, concealing the figure of Vitaly, and looks back.

– That is correct, but it has just ended. It seems that I made you wake up.

Neveah remains naked like she was in the bed. To such girl, Judal raises a wine glass and ask her a question.

– There is still a little left of yesterday. We can already sleep until the morning, so would you like to drink, Neveah?

## Chapter 4: The awakening of Latia *Battle of Liddy* Diva's Style

In the basement strategy conference room of Little Garden, the members of the Student Council, Claire and Erika, together with Chris, the chief analyst and students from the intelligence department were gathered to start the reunion.

– Claire-sama, right now, the invasion of the Savage was confirmed also in the Kingdom of Gudenburg, the western part of Qin Empire, and in the eastern part of Liberia. It is reported that eighty percent of them are common type, and the remaining twenty percent are dreadnaught and Trenta types.

– Acknowledged desuwa.

Claire replied to the female student's report of the intelligence department. The common type is eighty percent, if unknown Savages do not appear, they should be able to cope without problems. Since the *Third Attack* began, the proportion of the incoming Savage is the same as what was reported now. In addition, all of the Savages that have fallen into the deployed operational area have already been completely destroyed by the Slayers. There is no anxiety.

– Chris, what is the prediction of Savage's invasion near Sangria?

– I'm sorry, but the current status cannot be calculated yet.

– Have <<LiZA>> said something about that?

– Please wait a moment. I will check it now.

Chris sent all the existing data to try to communicate with <<LiZA>>. Next, he asked the question by pressing the keyboard that was close at hand with his fingers.

– There was a response. It should already be sent to the location of Claire-sama.

– I will confirm it masuwa.

The predicted attack number of <<LiZA>> and the map of the fall prediction

points are displayed on the floating monitor in front of them.

– A total of twelve?

The predicted time of the invasion is one day ahead.

– If there are twelve out of three hundred, it is a suitable number desuwane.  
Now around the world, how many invasions are happening?

– For now, it is still eighty... oh, Claire-sama. The latest information has arrived. Now, there is information that five Savages also invaded the area around Yamato's Motomatsu Base.

– What did you say!?

Claire stood up with her hands on the desk in front of her.

– Chris, what is the situation in there masuno!?

– Please rest assured, Claire-sama. Thanks to the interceptor unit led by Hayato-san, it seems that the five Savage have already been killed. But, it looks like they are a little troubled.

– Troubled? As I thought, they couldn't dealt with it like everyone does desuwane.

– It doesn't mean that it was in such a way...

– ?

The one who's supposed to talk about the details is Dr. Charlotte.

– May I join you?

– Yes, of course desuwa.

Claire nods while she looks bewildered. Thereupon, the figure of Charlotte was displayed on the floating monitor in front of them.

[Oh dear! It can't be helped, but your face is full of worries for Kisaragi Hayato]

– Wha...!

Claire, who was struck right in the mark, was left without words, and her face was bright red.

– Wha, what are you saying so suddenly! Be, besides, Kisaragi Hayato is an important Slayer for Little Garden, it is natural to be worried!

[Ha~ha~ha~, It is exactly as you say. I'm sorry for teasing you]

Erika was listening to the interaction between Claire and Charlotte with a sullen expression on her face. It is not interesting for her to see Claire confused by Hayato.

– Thank you for your words, Charlotte-sama. We are in a crisis now. So please, get into the subject at once.

[I know that. Well then, let's go immediately to the issue at hand. For example, the case of Kenzaki Touka—]

Charlotte said that Touka appeared on the battlefield without permission, and was attacked by a wild dog that was taken over by the Savage virus. In order to save Touka, Hayato sucked out the virus from the injured right shoulder and tells them that he collapsed.

– ...Kisaragi Hayato.... Truly, you are a person...

As Charlotte finished talking, Claire unexpectedly held her face in the palm of her right hand. It's his true nature, to help others without taking care of himself. She believes that from the bottom of her heart.

– So, what's the condition of Kisaragi Hayato?

[He is still sleeping, but as far as I looked at the examination data from Yamato, there are no abnormalities at the moment. For Kenzaki Touka is the same. Although I don't know what is going on, I want to do a proper examination quickly. There is a possibility that a second wave will come around Motomatsu Base, so for the time being, when Hayato-kun wakes up, I think I will bring Kenzaki Touka back to Little Garden. There's no problem with that, right?]

– It cannot be helped if it is like that. I comprehend desuwa. We will arrange the acceptance of that girl to the hospital.

[Thank you very much. That's all I have to report]

At the same time that the contact from Charlotte was disconnected, Claire

sighed greatly, and sat down deeply on the back of the chair.

– I have the feeling that is going to be troublesome again masuwane.

The figures of Emilia, Sakura— and of Karen, who is Hayato's sister, were floating in her head.

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After slaughtering the last Savage, Hayato who fainted was carried to the medical office inside Warslan's Motomatsu Base by Yumina, Mirai and Sango.

Seeming that he did not take the time to wake up, and one hour after collapsing— it's been thirty minutes since he woke up after being laid on this bed.

– Hayato-kun, is your body alright?

When he awoke, it was Mika who was in the side.

– Yes.

Hayato answers with a nod. The condition of his body is not bad. However, for Touka was different. Although she is in a state of reduced activity, and is still asleep, she sometimes suffers with painful moaning.

– How are you going to cure Touka?

– I am sorry, but we can't deal with a treatment at this base. For that matter I'm talking to Charlotte in Little Garden. I was told to contact them if Hayato-kun got up, so I will connect now.

They could get in touch with Charlotte immediately. The figure of Charlotte is displayed on the monitor of the medical office.

[Hi, Hayato-kun. I was really worried about you]

– Apart from me, is Touka going to be okay?

[So far from the data sent from there, it shouldn't be like a life-threatening situation. That goes the same for you, Hayato-kun]

[I see...]

[But, related to Touka-kun, there are many things that I won't understand

until I do a proper examination, so I considered to let her come to Little Garden]

– Me going to Little Garden...?

With those words, Hayato, Mika and Charlotte noticed that Touka is raising her upper half of the body from the bed.

– You, when did you wake up?

– I woke up just now. Leaving that aside, is it true that I'm going to Little Garden? My sword skill, my efforts have been recognized!

– That's not the problem, kind of.

– Shishō!?

It was Hayato who saw Ryūsei which suddenly appeared in the medical office and gave a voice earlier.

– Why are you here? Didn't a woman come to your house?

One after another, it was Touka who raised her voice.

– Because you did stupid things, once again. You really are very similar to Hokuto.

Ryūsei who came into the room gets close to the bed of Touka and hugs her.

– But I'm glad that you are alive, really.

– Shishō...

Ryūsei pokes her in the forehead, and so Touka fell to the bed from her back.

[With all things said, Hayato-kun prepare to leave Yamato soon]

Charlotte resumes her talk.

– Eh, but...

The *Third Attack* has not ended yet.

That was a concern for Hayato.

That's something he guessed.

Mika turns to Hayato and said.

– Do not worry about the mission, we will be okay. The probability that the

Savage will attack even for one in the vicinity of the Motomatsu Base will be less than one percent in the near future. That being the case, we can do it in one way or another.

Mika's line of sight is directed to the entrance of the medical office.

There were three people: Yumina, Mirai and Sango.

– Hayato-san, I hope you can come back.

It was Mirai who first opened her mouth.

– Honestly, thank you very much. I as was able to learn various things.

– No, to say that you learn...

– If this world can get through the *Third Attack*, perhaps we will meet at the Martial Arts Tournament the next time.

– ...Martial Arts Tournament?

– What is, that?

Hayato instinctively tilts his head.

– I heard rumors that the United Nations is talking about making a tournament for the Slayers. After this, I don't know what the world will be like, but I think it will be hasty.

– Oh, is that so?

Hayato thinks that it is certainly hasty.

– If eventually you have a match against me, I will left in you in shame suffering a complete defeat in front of Claire-sama masuwayo!

Of course it is Sango who said so. Looking at that figure, Mika opens her mouth visibly amazed.

– For the sake of that, it's no good if you don't keep practicing!

– How importunate desuwane, I know that masuwayo!

The medical office, was full in laughter.

– If you come to Yamato again, please stop by this base. We will gladly welcome Hayato-han.



– Certainly, come to visit my place too.

Following Mirai, Ryūsei said so.

– Yes, of course.

Answered Hayato.

In this way, Yumina, Mirai, Sango, the commandant Shinonome Mika and the people of Motomatsu Base, along with Shishō Ryūsei, were there to send off Hayato, who left Yamato with Touka.

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– ...Even if it is spare time.

FUAA, Fritz yawned, lying down over the provisory bed. Now, in the eastern part of the United States of Liberia, the *Sunshine State* where he was sent with his friend Latia, it is also known as the Universe Special Zone. People and materials, rocket launcher devices to launch satellites to space, *mass driver* which are the devices to launch the materials for the moon base development from the Earth to the moon are concentrated, and so the entrance to the great universe is in Liberia.

Latia and Fritz are dispatched to this area to protect those facilities from Savage's attacks. They prepared themselves, in the room of the base of the <<Liberia Space Station>> *NLSA*. So they are waiting for the invasion of the Savage. It is already twenty hours since they arrived at this place.

Around five hours of sleep, about three hours of strategy meeting, and although there was a social gathering with their team members, and the rest of the time there was almost nothing particularly to do, so it was quite painful for the standby state to continue. It would be natural for one of the yawns to come out. However, Latia who was stretching at the provisory bed to the other side seems to be unforgivable.

– Fritz, you have no sense of tension? We haven't come here to play, you know.

She says so amazedly, scowling at Fritz.

– Yeah yeah. I know that. [Vice-president Liddy also said it, that we must do

our best]— right?

Fritz imitated Latia just as she said the same thing over and over again. Speaking of why Liddy is involved, that's because she is from the Sunshine State. Even now her family lives in a city near this base. That's why Liddy wanted to come to this base and seemed to want to protect the city that has become familiar with an also the Space Station. However, as a Vice-President there's a mission to protect Little Garden, so she could not do so. Of course, for Little Garden that wants to hasten the project Lunaltia, this base is a key point that must be absolutely protected. As a result, the competent Latia and Fritz were chosen instead of Liddy to protect this base.

– Then if you comprehend, then act more properly. Because we don't know when the Savage will invade. I don't even know if my body will move at that time.

– Ok ok, I understand.

As he said that, and when Fritz raised his upper body, the door of the room opened and a man came in. Bergryd Leonhardt, a Slayer belonging to the Warslan Company, who commands Fritz and Latia, a unit that guards this Universe Special Zone. His age is in the mid-twenties, he turned into a Slayer right after he deployed his Hundred, and has a lot of experience fighting the Savage.

His skin is sun tanned, his height is tall and is very muscular. He also wears a tank top and camouflage trousers, so he indeed looks like a soldier.

– Guys, it is about time for lunch. Come quickly to the cafeteria.

– Understood.

Answering, Fritz got out of the bed.

– If so, are you also going to eat?

– Yup.

Answering, Latia also descends from the bed.

Fritz and Latia left the room with Bergryd and headed to the cafeteria where their teammates who had already fought together had surrounded the table.

This unit consists of Slayers of Warslan Company, Slayers of Little Garden and Slayers of the Army of Liberia, a total of six people. The Slayer belonging to Warslan is only Bergryd, the commander, and from Little Garden are Fritz and Latia. The remaining three are Slayers of the Army of Liberia. Nonetheless, the three members of the Liberian forces are unfamiliar with each other.

One is Wendy Velvet, a member who formed a team with Fritz and Latia in a large-scale search-and-destroy operation of Savage named <<Operation: Inside the Cage>>, the remaining two are Michael Goodhope, who's a young man and a senior of the <Dōjō> *Gym* era, and Kane Rodriguez, a man with a brown skin and a close clipping hairstyle. In addition, since Bergryd is between the commanding officers, his personality is bright and rough, but there isn't a nervous atmosphere between the six people. On the contrary, it is harmonious.

– Oh! Today's lunch is curry, right?

As she saw a pot with a curry in it on the table, Latia gladly said.

– This, are there any seconds, I wonder?

Bergryd answers to Latia who asks while still expressing a drooling expression in her face.

– There are as much as you like. Eat to your heart's content.

– Woo, hooray! Then I will eat to my heart's content!

Latia sits in a vacant seat happily.

*Good grief*, Fritz also sat down to the side.

– ...and, there are reports to you before the meal.

– Reports?

– What are the contents?

Fritz and Latia asked one after another.

Pouring water from the jug located on the table to the cup, and once they finished to arrange the dishes with curry and rice, and just as they thought that he would likely say a salutation to express gratitude before eating, bending his figure at the waist.

– There were already contacts here and there over the world, and the first wave of Savage was invading when they encountered with the headquarters of Warslan.

– So that means that the *Third Attack* has started?

– It's just as you say.

Bergryd answers to Fritz's question.

– By the way, it seems that five Savage invaded Yamato, it was a big invasion. However—

Bergryd smiled broadly and continued.

– Fritz, Latia, looks like the unit were your friend served as a leader have annihilated a fourth of them.

– Oh, is that so!? Then Hayato did it!

– He really did it, that guy!

– Yup, then we can't lose either!

Fritz and Latia are pleased with the great efforts of their friend. Looking at those figures, Bergryd felt delightful putting a smile on his face.

– As you see both of them now, the efforts of their comrade in this sort of place is the best camphor agent for soldiers. We too must be up to the expectations so, for now let's eat a lot of food, to be prepared for that moment. We can't fight if our stomachs are empty. What I try to say is, let's eat lunch without delay. Enjoy as much as you want.

With everyone saying "*Thanks for the food*", the lunch time starts.

– Oh! This is *tashty*!

Wendy said at the same time she eats a mouthful of curry.

– Yup, it is truly delicious.

Latia also gave her approval.

– This, I wonder who did it?

Fritz have heard that most of the employees of this base, seemed that they

already evacuated to a nearby shelter. There are no employees in this cafeteria now. That's why he thought that it was a kind of retort, but it seems to not be the case.

– I prepared it.

Replied Bergryd.

– Eh? Is that so?

– On the days when I have a break, I prepare it to my wife and my son at home. Thus in times of battle, I can treat to my teammates. That's why I brought ingredients.

– What, so Taichō is married?

It is Michael who spontaneously said so. That's the first time that Fritz and the others heard that.

– Now that you mention it, I haven't said anything yet. Before being a Slayer and entering the battlefield, I made a childhood friend. She is nineteen now. I have a kid. Wanna see him?

Bergryd was proudly showing the PDA to Fritz and company.

– What do you think? He's cute isn't it?

– Yeah, very adorable.

He does really look like a boy, but he is still four years old. Unlike the manly features of Bergryd, he is very cute. Perhaps, it looks like his mother.

– Hahaha, that's true, that's true. It should be fine for you to get married quickly and have children. It helps to your stability at work.

With that said, Bergryd looked to Fritz and Latia.

– Come to think of it, you guys are childhood friends. How far have you go?

– *Spits out*

– *Cough Cough...*

At the same time as he said those words, Fritz and Latia spouted together.

– Ple, please stop it, Taichō. What are you saying so suddenly? We are not like

that!

– Oh, is that really so? I thought that you were in a love relationship.

In regard to that, Bergryd kept making fun of both of them, the face of Latia is deep red, as she refutes.

– Wha, what are you saying!? I finally became a Slayer that I yearn so much! And about love, there's no time to do such a thing! If I get married then I will not be able to keep being a Slayer!

– Oh, reacting in such a way. You only thought about becoming a Slayer since you were just a child.

It was Kane that said so with a dried-up smile.

– Really, you've been quite in company with Fritz.

Then Michael said, amazed. He wondered that there might be a problem by listening to it.

Wendy asks.

– Latia-san, why do you admire Slayers so much?

– Uhm, that has a profound reason. My hometown is a rural town in the center of Liberia, called Cañaveral (Canaveral).... Then suddenly a Savage appeared near our town.

– Ah, I remember a thing like that. I saw it on the news!

– At that time, it was a Slayer from Warslan that protected our town. The figure of fighting the Savage was really cool! I was deeply moved when I was watching it. When I told my gratitude to the Slayers, I heard this. That I could become a Slayer— too.

– At that time, [If you consider to become one, then become the Slayer of a certain person. The Hundred will respond to you] that was you were told. Then that person, is your first love, right?

– Do, don't say stupid things! There's no such a thing! I admire that person! Also, don't put your hand on my head!

Latia's face turned red and shook off Fritz's hand. *Hahaha*, while laughing,

Fritz continues.

– ...so, after that Latia and I, went together to Warslan to take a response test of the Hundred. And then, we both passed it. After that, we attended the training school of Warslan together.

– Oh right, Taichō!

Suddenly Latia gave a loud voice.

– Huh, what's the matter?

– Taichō, you've been a Slayer for a long time in Warslan, by any chance do you know about the Slayers who rescued our city?

Latia who's sitting in front of Bergryd directed her look towards him, her eyes are shining.

Her heart is full of expectations that perhaps he might know that Slayer.

– Eh, oh, umm.... That's something...

The troubled Bergryd, in result, was scratching his cheek.

*BIIIIH BIIIIH*, the sound of the siren resonates at the base. There's no need to say that it was in the middle of the meal. Bergryd stood up and said.

– ...it is considerably earlier than expected, apparently it's time to fight. The meal, and the continuation of the story will be done after the Savage are knocked down. Guys, let's go!

\*\*\*

Bergryd is in a purple one, exclusive to the commanding officer of the army of Warslan, Kane, Michael and Wendy are disguised in the basic gray of the Warslan army— Fritz and Latia finished changing their clothes to the customized Variable Suits provided from Little Garden respectively.

They are now divided into two, waiting for the Savage's invasion.

That division consist of Bergryd, Latia and Kane as the melee unit and Fritz, Michael and Wendy as the range unit. The foundation is that the range unit sets a bombardment to adjust the position of the Savage, and destroys their shield— it is a strategy so that the melee unit destroys the core. What differs

from ordinary troops is that they must leave the *mass driver* and the rockets at the base intact, and defend them to the last. As a result, the three members of the melee unit were waiting in such a way, surrounding the base in an equilateral triangle shape.

– Say, Fritz-san.

It was Wendy Velvet, one of the members of the range unit who are in the center of the triangle who gave that voice.

– It is about the story a little while ago in the cafeteria, I think that perhaps Bergryd-san is, as Latia-san was saying, the Slayer of Warslan?

– Oh, is that what you thought so suddenly?

Fritz said, spilling a smile.

– I also felt that way. Are they actually the same?

Continues Michael, inquiring.

– Well, I don't remember that well but, aren't they the very same person?

– What's with that halfhearted answer?

– That's coz it was five years ago. My memory is hazy, there was no impression that I was growing a breadless beard like now, so my face was not scratched. Besides, in that case, once this battle is over, that will be said by Bergryd-san himself. "I'm that Slayer", don't you think?

– I can afford to presume so.

– Afford you say, why is that?

– In the story just now, Bergryd-san is supposed to be the first love of Latia, isn't it? Then Latia will be taken by Bergryd-san.

– Senpai, Bergryd-san have a family, right? What are you saying?

– Bu, but, that's infidelity...

– With the figure of a child?

– What if it's the case that Bergryd-san's wife is that type? If she does have the face of a child, then I feel like there is a possibility.



[I heard my name, you guys, what are you chatting about?]

Suddenly a voice was heard from the *Vital Rings* of the three people. The one who held the communication was Bergryd.

– Erm no, it is nothing.

Without a moment's delay, Kane lied.

[What, I thought that you were talking that my child does not resembles me. By the way, although he resembles my wife, there is no doubt he is my child. Anyway, five minutes for the Savage to fall. It is time to deploy the armaments to be prepared for that time, got it?]

Fritz, Wendy and Michael answered “Yes” after exchanging glances with a bitter smile on their faces.

– Could it be that he heard that?

Michael said at the same moment the communication with Bergryd was cut.

– Now, how much could it be?

Fritz points the left and right palms to the sky.

– Anyway, let's deploy the Hundred.

Certainly it is as Wendy says. The time for the invasion of the Savage is only five minutes. It will not be a case where you talk happily. Fritz took out the Hundred from his neck case. Likewise, Michael and Kane take out theirs too, and deploy their Hundred together.

– At any rate, your weapon and vestment are truly different.

Fritz looked at the figure of Wendy who had finished the deployment of her armament and took a hard look at her.

– Th, that's right. I think so too...

Wendy felt shy and hung her head in shame, her face turned red. Fritz and Michael's Hundred form are the same Long Shooter type, both weapons are guns. Speaking of, that attack releases a thick *energy shot* from the muzzle.

Because their duty is to destroy the defensive membrane deployed around Savage's body, their current task is to move the falling point of the Savage. It is

a de facto standard as a form, weapon and role of the Hundred range unit. As opposed to Wendy's weapon, it is like a wand that a mage uses.

The form of the Hundred is a Wizard type, and its suitable for that name, and speaking of her dress, her deployed armament are robes with a green pointed hat, she really looks like a female mage.

– When I was a child, I admired a magical girl from an anime of Yamato, and so the result seems to be like this...

– Hahaha, so it's something like that. Well, isn't it nice? There are a lot of things that you can do that we can't.

– Is, is that so?

– Your *magical* talent, I'm expecting it!

– *Ma, magical* you say...

Wendy who was beaten by Fritz's shoulder showed a kind of troubling look, then a communication from Bergryd arrived once again.

[Guys, are you prepared?]

– Yes, the three of us have already deployed our Hundred.

Michael answered that.

[*Okay*. The Savage should be caught by the naked eye in about two minutes. Fritz and Michael, you can charge energy into the guns]

– Fritz, you first.

– All right.

Encouraged by Michael, Fritz pours *energy* into his own Hundred, the gun of his <Impregnable Fortress> *Stronghold, Shooting Star*.

[By the way, the probability that Savage falls on *mass drivers*, launching sites, the base and the city for now is almost zero. What you guys should do is to destroy its defensive membrane— understood?]

It wasn't good news for Fritz and the others from the artillery unit. It is the most bothersome, because it is no better than the job of changing the falling position.

[By doing that, the Long Shooter Type are going to aim for the two dreadnaught type that will come later with full bombardment. If you like, there's no problem if it pierced through the Savage's body. That's because, three ordinary type are coming first, and so Wendy— you'll do... you can do it!]

-Ye, yes!

[Well then, I'll leave it under your care]

– Haha, now it is the role of the *magical* to flourish since suddenly we can't do it.

– Well.... So, "*magical*" ...

With a bitter smile, Wendy looks up at the sky.

– Oh, I saw it!

Fritz and the others also caught the Savage with the naked eye at the same time.

Just like Bergryd said, three bodies— Wendy goes to destroy the defensive membrane first.

– Ok then, I'll go!

Wendy raises the stick towards the sky. Then the tip began to shine intensively.

– *Target, lock on! Shoot!*

Together with that cry, three beams are released from the tip of the stick, hitting the ordinary type. The beams destroyed their defensive membranes.

With this, the common type after falling cannot soften the impact of colliding with the surface of the earth, which should not be able to move for a while with that shock.

– Hooray, Wendy! Michael-senpai, we can't lose!

– Right!

Three common type Savage fell, the ground surface shook. They simultaneously confirm the remaining Savage with the naked eye.

– Let's go, Fritz!

– Yes, senpai!

Both of them fired bombardments at full power towards the fallen dreadnaught type. In addition to those splendid hits, besides the defensive membrane of the dreadnaught type, they also blow off a part of the steel shell and one of the arm-scissors.

– They did their part isn't it!? Then the rest is our job.

That said, Latia hit the right fist with armor to the palm of her left hand. Her Hundred is a Martial Arts type. Its name is *Strike Beast*. The main way of attacking is striking directly the body. Kane's armament is an Army type and the weapon is a knife in both hands. Bergryd's weapon is a Crusher type, an axe.

[Latia, Kane, hear me. First of all, we will destroy the common type's core on the side quickly!]

– Yes sir!

They reply at the same time. Latia kicked the ground, and launched a kick to the body of the common type Savage whose movement has stopped by the impact of falling on the ground.

– Teeii!

The Savage rolls on the ground, pushed by its power. While trying to move with its long tactile sense and searching for the opponent who attacked it, at that time, Latia was aiming at its core, swinging downward her fist.

– Take this!

That fist broke through the defensive wall and destroyed the core.

– Oh! That's Latia. She's good huh.

Bergryd spontaneously raised his voice, watching Latia who had beaten a Savage. He also defeated a common type Savage.

– Kane, are you still in that?

[I'm about to do it now!]

Kane who kicked the ground and jumped high, slashes with knives in both of

his hands towards Savage's core. However, although he were able to destroy a part of the defensive barrier, he could not destroy the core.

– Damn it!

Kane lands on the ground once. Thereupon the Savage stood up, and swept the scissor of its right hand down to Kane.

– Oops!

Kane rolls to sideways, and dodges it.

Immediately after that, Savage's body bounced backwards.

– Huh?

Kane looks to his side due to what happened.

– Commander!

Bergryd was the one standing there. The scissors of the Savage that was about to swing downward Kane, were repelled by the hurled axe of him.

– What are you doing that it takes you too long, huh...?

Bergryd said in an amazed way and kicked the ground, starting to pursuit who was about to get up.

– Uooooooooooooooooooh!

The axe that was swung down destroyed the defensive barrier and the core.

– Good, this is the second one!

Latia, who was knocking down the Savage, looks at Bergryd who thumbs up for Kane, and became conspicuous as she noticed something. That figure of five years ago—.

It seems to be the figure of the Slayer who helped their city.

(Perhaps, Bergryd-san is the one of that time?)

Her hearts goes *DOKI DOKI*, beating fast.

[Hey, what are you spacing out for!? We defeated three of the common type, but there is still a dreadnaught!]

The communication is from Bergryd. So Latia regains herself.

That's true. Let's think about it later. The continuation of the story, he'll say it after the battle, right?

(Then, I'll immediately end this fight to listen to the story!)

Latia looks with her eyes at the Savage of dreadnaught type. That Savage, whose defense membrane was destroyed by Fritz and Michael's bombardment, was in a stiffening state due to the damage of the collision. In a rigid state such as immediately after falling, the pattern of the body is thin, but now it is regaining its original radiance, it's what she understands. While one of them moves tactilely intensely, the Savage opens its head with its body facing towards the Space Station.

– A bombardment, is incoming!

Bergryd cried out loudly.

To that Wendy answers.

[There's no problem, I will stop the bombardment if it comes to the base. That's because it is my specialty!]

– Oh! If I'm not mistaken, lady-chan's cane is capable of deploy a powerful E-barrier. I'm counting on you. That means Kane. And Latia. We are leaving the E barrier to lady-chan to defend against the bombardment, then we aim to set off an attack on the gap created after that.

– Understood!

– Roger that!

The two answered in succession.

Speaking of Savage's bombardment, it's a beam that looks like a bunch of thick lights that lasts for about five seconds, after finishing shooting it, a gap can be made for a few seconds. They will be aiming at that moment. But—.

– What's that?

Suddenly the battery inside the mouth of the Savage began to transform. From there, a small mass of *energy* like bullets began to be released

intermittently.

Looking at it, Michael speaks in astonishment.

– Don't tell me, the gun of the beam has changed...

– That's not the only thing, look that way!

Fritz's line of sight was pointed at another Savage. If you look closely at that Savage, the arms that were supposed to be blown away with a bombardment are regenerating, and the scissors are changing to something like a *gatling gun*. From there small *energy* bullets are fired in an intermittent manner.

– What's this! Such a Savage, it's my first time!

Latia shouts while avoiding the bullets.

– But what about that? In this state, did she really replied that it changed? The Savage, to have that much of intelligence...

– Say, Fritz. Does it mean that the Savage are evolving?

Fritz and Michael had conversations in the E barrier to block the bullets approaching the space facility.

– I do hope for that to be a joke.... What the hell is going on, exactly?

At the same time the bullets are paused, Fritz shoots a counterattack into the Savage where one arm has change to a *gatling gun*. There, a communication from Bergryd arrived.

– Change of plans! Everyone, aim for the destruction of the core!  
Bombardment unit, rely protection to Fritz!

As instructed by Bergryd, Latia and Kane head towards the Savage while dodging *energy* bullets fired like a machine gun, and the shell that accompany them. As a result of that cover, Fritz shoots a beam to Savage, but, the attack stops and does nothing. The Savage's barrier is robust, defending it from that beam.

– Damn, if so, I will do it!

Latia, while dodging the lights, rotates the armor of her right fist, and launches her knuckle towards the Savage who continued to shoot shell

intermittently from its mouth. It splendidly hit Savage's abdomen. That big body was knocked down.

– Well done, Latia! I'll finish t!

Bergryd attacks in without a moment's delay towards the head of the Savage that was in a forward-bent posture, its attack stopped. With his axe. The core is destroyed.

– Well, let's defeat the rest of the Savage to resume our lunch.

At the same time those words were said, the remaining dreadnaught turn its eyes towards Bergryd.

– Bergryd-san, run away!

Fritz shouted loudly. He noticed that something was approaching from the distance.

– Hm? What's the matter, Fritz?

That said, Bergryd looks back.

At the same time, something dropped to his side, and exploded. Not only once. But two times, three times and smoke rolls up. What could be heard next from that are gunshots. They seemed to come from several machine guns. In the middle of that, the screams of Bergryd are mixed in it, and Latia did not miss them.

– Commander!?

Latia cries, and rushes into the whirling cloud of smoke.

– Wh, what's happening now?

While confused, Fritz and Michael, members of the range unit crawl and look to their surroundings. Then, from the shadow of the huge rock towering near, they found that a missile was fired.

– Over there!

Michael screams and turns his gun. Looking closely, to the shadows and dents of the gigantic rocks that are towering up in the wilderness, there are around ten people, wearing camouflage clothes, and he was able to see the figure of



humans, men, who hid their face with a similar camouflage turban. Three of them carry a rocket launcher on their shoulders, and the rest hold a machine gun.

– What’s going on, who are those people!

It’s Wendy who screams in a frightened way. Fritz shoots to a missile approaching with his own gun and answered while destroying it.

– They are probably terrorists, because it seems that they are aiming for the *mass driver*, and the equipment to launch rockets with their missiles.

– *Tch*, Fritz clicked his tongue, and continued.

– In other words, they are those guys who refuse the advance of humanity through the universe.

– Damn rascals, they are trying to attack, aiming for the chaos due to the appearance of the Savage!

A missile aimed at a terrorist who tried to fire from his rocket launcher. However, he successfully hidden in the rocks and avoided it.

– Michael-senpai! I’ll shoot down the missiles that were shot, so senpai you keep the bombardment on them!

– Understood!

– Uhm, err, Fritz-san...

– What’s the matter, Wendy?

– Over there...

– Eh?

Fritz points his line of sight to the place showed with trembling fingers. The sand smoke which was rolled up by three explosions was already gone.

– You’re kidding, right...?

Fritz doubted his eyes. In the center of the explosion, there was Latia and Bergryd that is held in her arms. In addition to the missiles, he may have been attacked by the machine guns. Let alone that his armament has been cancelled, his Variable Suit is also tattered, and blood flows from here and there.

– .....

Kane, standing by the side of Latia also stood out and looked at Latia and Bergryd with a stunning look.

– Commander, please hold on! Do you hear me, commander!?

Latia calls out loud.

After catching the voice, Bergryd opened his eyes, while groaning.

– Latia.... What happened just now?

– Terrorists. The terrorists appeared, they started to attack us...!

– ... I see, have they hurt any people...? Perhaps that third party are the remnants of the anti-Slayer organization or some kind of opposing force to the space entry.... I didn't expect them to commence to work together with the Savage, it was a failure in my judgment.....It is bad to pull the feet of young people....

– N, no, Commander isn't in the wrong! What's bad is, that they are trying to do this...

Latia glared at the terrorists who are in a gunfight with Fritz.

– Damn, I, to them...

– ...wait, Latia.

Bergryd called out to Latia who tried to kick the ground to head for the terrorists.

– Now, I'll continue the story.

– Commander, what are you saying...?

– Five years ago, I was the Slayer who saved your city. Well, the child at that time has really become a Slayer, I'm happy...

– Why, now, such story.... Such thing, it is for later....

– Listen, listen carefully. It's an advice of your senpai. Always, fight for what you keep in your heart with justice. That way, no matter what happens, it will not break, and it will be not painful when you die.

– Commander?

– ...say, Latia. What's your justice? What are you fighting for?

– I, like commander— like Bergryd-san, I wanted to be a strong, cool Slayer to save people... So, thus I became a Slayer....

– In other words, your justice is me? If that's the case, then leave me here, and quickly knock down the Savage and those guys— protect this base for the future of the Earth. In order to create a world where our children's generation cannot be frightened by fear,

*COUGH*, blood spat out of the mouth of Bergryd.

– Commander!

– ...I'm ok. More than that, answer me, Latia. You are the one who can make my dying wish come true. Make me rest in peace.

– Yes... I under, stand...

Squeezing her nose, Latia continued.

– I will fight by taking over the dying wish of the commander— of Bergryd-san. So Bergryd-san, rest for a moment.

Latia gently stood laying down the commander on the ground, and stared with a sharp gaze at the terrorists.

– I will not forgive to anyone of you. Neither the Savage.

A large amount of *energy* was released from the body of Latia who shouted.

– No way, she...

It was that 'no way'.

The whole body of Latia is enveloped by a shining *energy*. What appeared from that was the appearance of Latia where her arms and legs armor thickened—.

– Full armament... is it?

Like seeing something incredible, Michael had his eyes wide open.

– Haha, apparently it is something like that...

– Although the atmosphere was similar when Hayato and Claire were in full armament, to do something like this, really—



Fritz could not believe what happened in front of him. The situation in the

middle of that.

– Hey, Latia. A missile! A missile is coming!

Kane is the one who shouted. Naturally, the terrorists also noticed the change in the armament of Latia, and they felt a sense of danger. Rapidly, they shot small missiles against Latia. However, Latia is not perturbed at all. On the contrary, she pointed her body towards the missile, inhaled deeply, and pulled her arm. And then—.

– Haaa!

She pushed out her fist for the approaching missile. The wind created by this causes the missile to scatter one hundred meters ahead, let alone the explosion, that blew away the bodies of the terrorists that were in that way, two hundred meters behind.

– Hey hey, what's that?

Turning around in the direction of Fritz who muttered without thinking, witnessing an event that was beyond common knowledge, Latia said.

– Fritz, I entrust the commander to you. Michael-senpai and Kane-senpai will catch the terrorists. I'll take the Savage by myself.

– By yourself, are you sure... about that?

– Of course!

In response to Fritz's question, Latia, who kicked the ground with force, hit the Savage with a loud cry while shedding tears.

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About one hour and a half had passed, since the predicted Savage's invasion in the area of Sangria. There are already a number of arranged Slayers with Long Shooter type and Dragoon type Hundred on the deck of Little Garden and in the city of Sangria.

This third range unit deployed to the outskirts of Sangria is one of them.

Not only their own lives but also the battle that imposed the earth's fate, everyone is getting nervous and setting up their preparations for the Savage's

invasion.

Among them are second year students of Little Garden. There was Liddy Steinberg, who's also one of the vice-presidents. She is also the leader of this third range unit. And only Liddy is specializing in melee attack in this unit—nonetheless, that doesn't mean she can't do long range attacks. *Air Rides* are prepared in one of the three tracks that form this Savage camp. *Thrusters* to fly in the sky and, two muzzles that shoot beams— there are ten missiles which are live ammunition weapons installed on the left and right. Liddy's mission is, to cooperate with the range unit to get rid of the Savage.

*BEEP BEEP*, the <<Emergency Alert>> signal reverberated on the track. The flashing red light installed on the top also emits a light. Subsequently, the sound that came to the base camp is the voice of Chris Steinbelt, *Main Analyst* of Little Garden.

[This is the *Briefing Room*, this is the *Briefing Room*. Notifying to all of the third range unit. A group of Savage touched the outer atmosphere— and after passing through thermosphere, mesosphere, stratosphere, troposphere, they will reach the ground in ten minutes— the prediction falling points of the Space Station of Liberia and <<LiZA>> are both in the vicinity of Sangria and the number of Savages invading within the range of the operations of the third range unit is two. Please prepare for interception immediately. Repeating once again—]

Along with those words, Liddy and the rest started to move immediately. Each Slayer raises their voices with [*HUNDRED ON*] and deploys their Hundred, keeping up their placement.

[There are only five minutes until the Savage arrives!]

When that communication of Chris was heard from the speaker from the bottom of the neck, Liddy equipped the *Air Ride* on her back, and was looking at the sky above the hill with her Long Spear Hundred type, *Midgard Schrange*, on her hand. She still cannot grasp the Savage with the naked eye. Then three minutes passed, a communication from Chris entered again.

[Everyone in the third range unit, please start to gather *energy*!]

– Informing to all the members of the unit, start to gather *energy*!

Liddy exclaimed to repeat Chris's instructions. According to that voice, each one from the artillery put *energy* into their guns. The thing they should do is to develop barriers to wrap around the giant falling Savage— it is to destroy the defensive membrane.

[To all the archers that have the opportunity, please fire the arrows aiming at the core. Liddy-san, you will be helping by moving under your own judgment]

– Uh huh, of course that's the plan.

[Then, please keep your eyes on the Savage while commencing your operations. I will leave it under your care]

The transmission from Chris disconnected. Liddy keeps staring at the sky calmly. Two Savages are reflected in her eyes.

– Objective confirmed, attaaaaaaaaaaaaack!

Beams are emitted one after another from the ground.

Liddy kicked the ground by confirming that the Savage's defensive membrane was destroyed by them. She raises to the skies by releasing *energy* from the *thruster* of the *Air Ride*. She readied her <<Heavenly Jet Black Spear>> *Midgard Schrange*, plunging forward aiming at the Savage.

– Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Attacks with the spear in a form that pierces from the ground with the tip pointing to the sky, and rotates it as Savage's big body revolves in the air. Then, the pattern of the body shone violently.

It is trying to recover the balance of its body using *energy*. Liddy who felt that, shot beams from the two muzzles of the *Air Ride*. The Savage's huge body was sent flying further to the sky.

– This is your end!

Liddy accelerated using the *thruster* while confirming its movement. While using *energy* to rotate *Midgard Schrange* like a powered drill, she assaulted aiming to the core of the Savage. Liddy not only destroyed the *shelter* at the head but also destroyed the core. The pattern of the body of the Savage faded, and it shook off to the wilderness above ground.



– The first one—

*BOOM*, the Savage's corpse falls on the ground making a sound. Immediately after that, a heavy impact sound hit the ear. Another Savage fell to the ground.

(It seems like they could defeat another one?)

Liddy looked at the place where a cloud of dust whirls.

Communication entered from one of the troops there. It is a girl, the sub leader of this third sniping unit.

[My apologies, Liddy-taichō. We were able to tear the defensive membrane, but the bow troops could not destroy the defensive wall nor the core]

– Roger, I will handle it.

Answers Liddy, looking once again towards the ground. That facial expression, in an instant was tinged with impatience.

– It is bad!

As inside the cloud of dust was becoming thin, she saw that the Savage was opening its mouth. She is not the one being targeted. But the members of the unit above ground.

– ...tsk!

Rather, if she was the one being targeted that would have been better. Thinking that, Liddy clicked her tongue. She can easily dodge it, or she can block it with the E barrier. Of course, the members of the unit are Slayers. E barrier can be deployed, but to begin with, there are too many people. She can see within her sight that some of them are being scared to that extent of the Savage that is in a bombardment stance. Then she hurries to stop it so that it can't give any damage by firing the beam. It may be dangerous in that situation.

It would be better to not let it bombard if possible.

(If so, with this!)

Liddy swung her arm in a big way holding *Mldgard Schrange*. Then pours *energy* again, and throws *Midgard Schrange* in the head of the Savage, which started rotating.

– Uoooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

Because of the attacks from the artillery and the archers, the *shelter* have been damaged. So far from stopping the bombardment, it penetrated the defensive barrier and destroyed the core.

– This is the second one.

Liddy pulled out *Midgard Schrange* from the body of the Savage and dropped to the ground.

– That was too quick, don't you think?

Murmuring, Liddy reports to the *Briefing Room*.

– Chris, I confirm the silence of two Savages just now.

[That's enough for today— although I would like to say that, but it is predicted that three Savages will fall in the vicinity of Little Garden. Since there are no signs that Savage will fall within the range of the operations of the third range unit so far, would it be possible for Liddy-san to considerate to assist the guardian unit of Little Garden?]

– Naturally. I'm moving immediately.

With that answer Liddy contacted the girl who's the sub leader in the third range unit.

– By orders from the *Briefing Room*, I will head to assist the guardian unit in Little Garden. You will be waiting in this place for the next Savage's approach.

– Understood.

Liddy, who heard the reply, flew to the sky using the *Air Ride's thruster* and started moving towards Little Garden.

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<Artificial Floating Island> *Megafloat* Little Garden, which is connected to the port of Sangria by <Bridge> *Tree ship*, it is surrounded by a transparent plastic material reinforced by *energy*, except for the deck. Therefore, if it disconnects the *tree ship* and get off the port, it looks like a safe *shelter*. As a result, at the time of the invasion of the Savage, the children in the city of Sangria also moved

to Little Garden and, with their residents, were to evacuate to a huge underground *shelter* in the military district.

– Everyone, this way! Little Garden is safe so, please move calmly!

It's Ryu Shuemei, a first year from the martial arts department, who has a megaphone in her hands, and is informing to the residents of Little Garden and also to the children coming from Sangria. Also from the same first year Noah Sheldon and Alphonse Brewstadt were informing together with Shuemei.

– Everyone, please move calm— kyaa!

Noah, who raised her voice following Shuemei, could not emit her words until the end. A big impact noise sounded inside the ship and Little Garden shook violently.

– What was that of now?

– A Savage!

It is Alphonse that answered Noah's doubt while looking up at the sky. He was able to see the massive Savage of about four meters in length on the top glass. The shake of now is due to that impact. However, what he can see is not the abdomen but the back, and behind that he can see Liddy wearing an *Air Ride*.

– It seems that the Savage has not fallen directly onto Little Garden, right...?

The conjecture from Shuemei was right.

The missiles launched from Little Garden reduce the falling speed of the Savage, which defensive membrane was destroyed by the shooting of the guardian unit. Nonetheless, Liddy rushed to prevent the fall onto Little Garden, but she did not make it in time. The bright side of all this is that the top glass is not broken and no fissure are into it. It goes without saying that this is also thanks to the functioning *energy* barrier of <<LiZA>>. But, that doesn't mean that the Savage has died.

The Savage recovers its stance on the surface of the top glass and bombards towards Liddy. Liddy attacks it with her weapon *Midgard Schrange* by dodging it. However, it did not lead to the destruction of the core. The Savage, whose body was pushed by Liddy's attack, slips off to the deck, sliding down from the

top glass. Bounces once, and it sinks in the sea just like that. Noah said, watching the situation.

– Apparently, looks like it's already ok now.

Alphonse breathed feeling relieved. Little Garden doesn't seem to be exposed to threats, those people taking refuge probably understood that. Noah and Shuemei, and of course the surroundings, are also wrapped in relief.

So Shuemei raised her voice extending her arms.

– Everyone, as you can see, Little Garden is sturdy, even if the Savage defeat the Slayers. So please, take it easy, and advance slowly!

However now, another big explosion and tremor hit Little Garden.

– What, now.... That felt different from the previous tremor...

The facial expression of Noah instantly turned stern.

– The previous one was vertical, but the one from now, felt like it was horizontal, isn't it?

Alphonse looked up to the top glass, but he could not see the Savage. And there again, an explosion along with a tremor hit Little Garden.

– Hii!

While screaming, Alphonse sat down on the ground holding his Hundred, a Tamer type that looked like a dog, named *Silver Blitz*, which was at his feet.

– Probably this, is an attack that comes from within the ocean... right?

– Huh?

When she heard the guess from Alphonse, Shuemei makes her eyes go round.

– Indeed, you could say that tremor felt that way.

Noah said showing her agreement.

Then there the sound of an explosion reverberated again. However, until while ago, the distance was far, the tremor was not big, but consistent over time.

– What's, that...?

Shuemei points out her finger to a huge waterspout that can be seen far away.

It's that, the Savage that fell into the ocean...? In spite of that, the Savage can attack from within the ocean! The Savage from a while ago, is even able to act in the ocean!

– It is just as you said, Alphonse Brewstadt.

– That voice...!

Alphonse raises only his face while hugging *Silver Blitz* and turned his eyes towards the owner of that voice.

– Yo, guys!

It was Charlotte who was riding a motorized motorcycle while keeping a candy in her mouth like usual as she said that to Alphonse. Then, she stops her movement and continues her speech while putting one foot on the ground.

– As guessed by Alphonse, this is a Savage that can even do an attack from the sea. There are three Savages falling into the sea and attacking Little Garden in total. But don't worry, because our forces are beating them properly. Nevertheless, just to be sure, when the evacuation guidance is over, even you guys should go to the *shelter*. In case there's a moment you separate from the *shelter*, you can still escape by getting to the ship.

– Oh, yes. I understand!

Noah replied.

– Well then, if you excuse me. If we don't manage this situation quickly we will be wasting the power of Little Garden.

Charlotte resumes her movement by riding once again her motorized motorcycle. After they saw off that figure, the three of them, Shuemei, Noah and Alphonse returned again to the guidance of the evacuation.

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– Kuh, no way, I couldn't give it a finishing blow, and to thrust down that one into the sea...

In the sky above Little Garden, Liddy was distorting her expression with regret. Even though she wasn't in time to deal with the Savage that tried to fall on top of Little Garden, with the attack she commenced, she committed a mistake by dropping it into the sea.

On the contrary, there are two other Savages which fell into the ocean. Moreover, it seemed that those Savages, all of them, were trying to attack Little Garden from underwater. That's why it can be understandable that Little Garden is shaking, due to the barriers deployed on its exterior that are operating. Liddy quickly decided to contact the *Briefing Room* with *Vital Ring's* wireless function. It's because she can't fight in the water.

– I'm sorry, I was able to come running at the last moment, so I let escape the three Savages. Although I think that I can also grasp that, any of those Savages or maybe all of them can possibly move in the sea, and it seems that they are setting an attack on Little Garden.

[Of course, we already caught that too in here masuwa. We are already taking measures to deal with the Savage in the sea]

It was not Chris, but the voice of Claire that came back. The way to deal with it, Liddy immediately understood that.

– Is the usual trio?

[That's right]

The usual trio is the three people made of artificial Variant by Vitaly. Though they have been treated by Charlotte, and that they can't lose control, their abilities have dropped considerably. Still, as a result of training, their strength have already recovered to about a 90%. Therefore, in this *Third Attack*, Liddy knew that the Savages that can move around in the sea will be dealt with those that were doing training under the direction of Charlotte.

[Therefore Liddy, please return to your position]

– Got it.

Those three will be fine, isn't it?

Liddy replied while thinking that.

[And, two things before that. There are good news and bad news for you]

– ...Good news and bad news? What does that mean?

[The good news first. The Savage also invaded the vicinity of *Sunshine State*, your birthplace. However, due to the success of Fritz and Latia the Space Station and the town have not been damaged. Besides, there is a report that Latia was in full armament in this fight. That's the good news]

– I see...

It can be done if both of them are in the team. That's what she thought. She felt relieved to that extent.

– Then, what are the bad news?

[In the middle of that fight the terrorists attacked a person, a Slayer from Warslan who died in action]

– ... don't tell me that, it is Fritz Grantz?

Full armament may be caused by a peak in the emotions. That's why, if something as him being the victim was the trigger, that conclusion passed through her mind.

[No, he wasn't]

– Then who was—

[The victim is the commander officer Bergryd Leonhardt]

– Is that so, he's...

As a Slayer of Warslan, he is a man of high contribution and a superior as a Slayer. They have met many times over.

[Actually he is the person who made Latia and Fritz aim to be Slayers. That's why I am worried about the mental aspects of those two people desuwa. There's nothing else to report]

– I expressly sorry. Thank you very much for the information.

[I give you my very thanks for your continuous efforts. Thanks to you, the damage to the streets of Sangria is minimal at the moment]

– As you say, that’s the most important.

[Then, I’ll leave it up to here]

The communication from Claire ends. At the same time Liddy muttered.

– A victim in the middle of the fight...

She was happy that her hometown was saved. She is sure that her mother will be delighted with the **new family**. However, this is the place where Liddy have to take care about the mental aspect of the two people. For the moment Liddy has never encountered the sacrifice of a companion in front of her. Even though she can imagine the feelings of Fritz and Latia, she can’t understand them.

(I won’t say to them to stop being a Slayer....)

She have heard many stories about those people whose teammates were killed by Savages in front of them and were so shocked that they could not go out to the battlefield anymore. It is said that it is actually a trauma where time flies back in the battlefield, and some people stop moving. But, Liddy quickly shook off the anxiety from her head.

(No, those two people. I’m sure they’ll get over it)

Only because she felt that their strength was there, she approved to put those two people as members of Selections. Even the participation in this battle.

(At any rate, for Latia to be in full armament...)

Even though it is due to a temporary rise in her emotions, she can’t be too careless. Because beyond Claire, there is also the possibility of being pulled down.

(I need to be even way stronger...)

To protect this world. To get closer to her admired Claire.

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– The preparations seem to be in place.

Charlotte said as she reached the hangar, and descended from the electric motorcycle before Krovahn, Nesat and Nakri who had changed their clothes to



Variable Suit and were lining up. Then she walked towards the locker at the back of the room and while entering the password on the control she continued talking.

– As reported earlier in the communication, you guys have to defeat the Savage that are in the sea. It's a crucial mission to protect Little Garden.

– We know it, we've been receiving practice for this moment. Quickly take out the <<Underwater Armor>> *Diver*.

That's what Krovahn said. Then Nakri said.

– The swaying from a time ago, was the attack from a Savage, right? We have to hurry somehow!

– I know I know!

Charlotte who answered urged on by those two people, opened a locker and took out the <<Underwater Armor>> *Diver*. Unlike the *Air Ride*, only helmets and compressed gas cylinder are equipped. It is an improved <<External Armament>> *Outer* originally used for Slayers for training in the void of space.

There is only one thing different from the ordinary compressed gas cylinders— the oxygen in the cylinder is created by *energy*. Unless the *energy* is cut off, the amount of oxygen is inexhaustible.

– I'll repeat the important points once more. When you run out of *energy*, or when the cylinder is destroyed, you will withdraw immediately... ok?

– Uh huh, understood.

Answers Krovahn, receiving the *Diver* and began to equip it. Nesat and Nakri also receive *Diver* and begin to equip them.

– Sisters, could you equip it too?

– ...yeah.

Nesat nods. Continuing, Nakri said.

– Both Karen's elder brother and that damn impertinent pipsqueak are not in Little Garden right now, right? If so, then we are the ones who have to get through this. This is our repayment to you who helped us. Don't you think so,

Nesat?

– ...yeah.

Nesat nodded firmly and said.

– Hayato and the others are not here, we have to do our best.

– ...

– What's the matter, Krovahn?

Nesat tilted her head, looking at the sullen look of Krovahn.

– It, it's something wrong?

– Perhaps Krovahn is unable to stomach that Karen's brother's name came out of the mouth of Nesat?

– Hey, don't say something so unnecessary!

– For what reason does Krovahn hate that the name of Hayato came out?

– I don't particularly hate it, got it!? Rather, I should say that this is not the place to be talking something like that, don't you agree?

Saying that to deceive them, Krovahn walked to go out to the deck from the hangar.

– Let's go. We will save this place of now— Little Garden, with our strength!

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Now, what's going on outside?

The ones in the basement of Little Garden don't know. Everyone in the shelter were with their face with uneasiness.

– That's a real horizontal tremor. I wonder if all of the Slayers are doing well...

Murmured Kirishima Sakura disguised with sunglasses and a hat. Her manager Souffle Clearrail and Kisaragi Karen are on her side. The friends of her, Aoi and Rebecca, were also there. They met during the evacuation and decided to group.

– At any rate Sakura-san, we are in Little Garden now.

Aoi murmurs close to Karen's ears. Subsequently, Rebecca also murmurs close to Karen's ears.

– Karen knew about that thing?

– Yeah, I must admit...

The invasion of the Savage, the *Third Attack*, extends to the whole world. Souffle recommended that they should evacuate to this place as it is said that Little Garden is the safest inside, so she heard that Sakura also got in as well. Besides, it seems that she has been requested by Charlotte.

– There may be the case that we will be borrowing your power and the one from Karen-kun.

It's what Charlotte said.

That is, to try a mind attack to the Savage with a <Song>. Summing up, there are other reasons as to why Sakura chose Little Garden.

(And I thought that I was going to meet Hayato-kun here in Little Garden.... Of all things, he was dispatched to Yamato....)

Murmuring so in her mind, Sakura sigh heavily. And there was also the thing that the mails sent to Hayato don't have a reply.

– By the way, have you heard a thing about Hayato-kun?

Sakura asks to Karen.

– No, I haven't.

Karen checked her PDA and answered.

– The side of Yamato, is more serious than expected, isn't it?

Her eyes narrowed at the other side of the glasses, Aoi murmured preoccupied.

– I don't know that, but... shall I predict it a little?

Saying that, Karen tried to take out the Tarot from a small bag hanging over her shoulder, when a tremor hit Little Garden again.

Karen's Tarot is scattered on the floor.

– Truly, what is this...? What on earth is going on outside?

Sakura mutters as she looks being fed up.

– I know that you feel to want to go to see, but going there is futile.

– I understand such a thing.

To the advice of Souffle, Sakura sharpened her lips. Karen is the same too, it's no good, she should not go. Both Charlotte and the President, are stopping her from entering the battlefield.

(I wonder if Liza-san was still inside Karen, I would become powerful...)

But, now she is no longer inside. That voice could not be heard either.

– Ah! Karen-san... and... Sakura-san, am I right?

Raising her head to the one who called out to her, a face that she recognized was standing. Her brother's classmates.

– Shhhh!

In a panic, Sakura stands a finger in front of the face. She wonders how is that she was recognized concealing herself.

Inside of this shelter are not only those who are accustomed to those two people, but also people from Sangria. There's a possibility that it can turn into something big if those two, who are popular Idols are discovered. Shuemei puts her hands in front of her chest, lowered her head and approached to Sakura.

– I am really sorry. By no mean I thought that Sakura-san might be here...

– There's no shelter for VIP to use?

Following Shuemei, Noah asks.

– It seems that there is one, but in in this state of chaos, we ended up coming this way. I came across with Karen and the others on the way here, and that being the case, it was okay for me.

– Oh! Certainly it was a great chaos... I'm sorry...

Shuemei felt bitterly as she was designated as a guide. Then Noah turned her eyes to the two girls who were on Karen's side.

– Are you Karen-san's friends?

– Yes, both of them are my classmates.

Without a moment's delay Karen replied.

– I am Umino Aoi.

– I'm Rebecca Martin.

The two of them greet continuously, and Shuemei also started her greetings.

– I am Ryu Shuemei. A classmate of Karen-san's older brother.

– I am also a classmate of Karen-san's older brother, Noah Sheldon. Nice to meet you.

– Okay then, I'm the next one.

Coughing clearing his throat, Alphonse continued.

– I'm Alphonse Brewstadt. I'm Hayato's classmate just like those two... ehehe. At any rate, both of you are cute, you know? Oh, by the way, this guy is my Hundred—

– We are still inside the shelter, so put away *Silver Blitz*. What I mean is, our fellow middle school students are exhausted.

– Err, I thought it would be soothing everyone...

– Listen up and put it away.

– Understood...

Alphonse returned *Silver Blitz* to a Hundred in a half-interested way.

– Good grief. This lolicon. I feel ashamed to be around him as a student of the martial arts department.

– Lolicon are the worst...

And again in there, another shake hit.

– Really, what are these tremors? Do you guys know something?

– Dr. Charlotte said that the attacks are coming even from within the ocean but, counter-measures have been taken. It's okay she said.

That's what Shuemei said.

And then another shake stroke, a lot of screams went up.

It might be said that dissatisfaction and distrust towards Little Garden's Slayers are expressed, and looking closely, it can be seen the figures of some children that are crying.

– Uhm, everyone, please remain ca—

As a student of the martial arts department of Little Garden, Noah thought that she had to manage this place, so she raised her voice.

And then Sakura stopped her with a [Wait], she stands up and continues her words.

– Whatever you say, I think that it is in vain now. Besides, shouting recklessly makes children even more confused. That's why, leave this to me.

Saying so, Sakura suddenly started to sing a song.

And she just like in the old days, is the song that she sang together with Hayato and Karen—.

It's the song that she used to sing to suppress the running wild children injected with Variant Virus under Vitaly. That song attracted the people around her in an instant and subdued the commotion.

– Come on, you too Karen-chan.

When finishing the first phrase of the chorus, Sakura reached out her hand to Karen who's sitting next to her.

– Oh, yes.

Karen stood up with the hand that was presented out, and starts to sing the continuation with Sakura. People who are in the *shelter*, in a moment they get drunk with their singing voice, becoming captives. When the chorus ends, both of them stopped singing, and the inside of the shelter begins to be noisy.

– Would that be...

– Are you sure?

– Yup, I'm sure.

– Kirishima Sakura, and Kisaragi Karen!

It seems that, their identities have been uncovered as a matter of course. But they were prepared. Sakura doesn't need to hide anymore, and take off her sunglasses.

– It is just as I thought, it's Kirishima Sakura!

A girl raises her voice. Thereupon, Sakura puts a finger in front of her face and made a *Shh!*, then spread her smile wide horizontally.

– Remain quite for a moment. Will you hear my words?

That said, Sakura continued.

– Everyone, I imagine that you are very anxious now. Even I am. I'm very scared. But in more scary places, there are people fighting to protect us. What we can do in here is to support them. And pray for their safety. And to believe in their victory. So, let's support them. Let's pray. Let's believe. For the Slayers' safety, and for their victory—

Following Sakura, Karen said.

– That's right, absolutely Onii-san... no, the Slayers, to this city, the world—they will save it! So please calm down, and just as Sakura-san says... this, uumm...

– Karen, your sunglasses are attached, you know?

– Oh...!

Looking at Karen who removed her sunglasses swiftly, the inside of the *shelter* was filled with laughter.

– Errr, then, everyone sing this time. If you like, could you clap with your hands too?

While saying that, Sakura starts to clap and begins to sing. Karen clapped and started to sing as well. The children also started to clap their hands, matching and overlaying the singing voice with them. While clapping their hands the same way as the others, Aoi said.

– Sakura-san is incredible... in a blink of an instant, she dominated this place.

– Of course, Karen too. The children are not crying anymore.

Continuing that, it has been Rebecca who said so. To the side, Souffle wiped away tears floating on the corner of her eyes with a finger and muttered.

– Sakura, Karen, you are, truly respectable <<Divas>> *Idols*

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(I wonder if the Savage in the sea can be defeated)

Liddy thought while resting at the base camp surrounded by three tracks. There are many members of the third range unit around and are taking a rest just like Liddy.

(Well, it's okay if it's about those three...)

There are no reports that they could have beat them from Claire, but if Little Garden is in a dangerous situation, there will be a support request again. To begin with Claire is in Little Garden, and members of the special force are left. There is not much need to worry. Liddy was about to conclude so. Suddenly, an emergency alarm sounds. Rotating lamps installed on the communication vehicle also started turning while making a sound.

(Don't tell me, something happened in Little Garden?)

It's Chris' voice that she can hear while the anxiety is coming back.

[This is Chris Steinbelt at Headquarters. There's information to all from the third range unit. The approaching of Savage is confirmed again]

It looks like the discussion it's not related to Little Garden. That made her a little relieved, but unlike until a while ago, Chris' voice was on the verge. The reason turned out to be the next words he released.

[The amount is six— the classification are 3 of the dreadnaught type and 3 <Super dreadnaught> *Trenta* type]

– What, the...?

Liddy remembered the battle on Zwei Island about half a year ago.

If at that time she was having trouble even with a single <Super dreadnaught>, what about three—? Liddy has an impatience look on her face,



and of course, the members of the range unit.

(But, I've been raising my skill since that time)

And there are *Air Ride* as new weapons. *I surely should manage it somehow.*  
Liddy tells herself so. She heard the voice of Claire that continued.

[If the three Trenta come together as expected, then I together with Erika will sortie and will head there as planned. Emilia Hermit which is active in the second range unit will also join masuwa. It is predicted that this attack on this neighborhood will be the last one. Let's intercept them by raising full force]

– Err, Claire-sama.

[What is it desuno?]

– About the ones in the sea— what will become of the threesome?

She was worried, for something like full force, so Liddy decided to ask.

[That case in specific, I solved it. We are confirming the annihilation of the Savages in the sea. There's no damage to Little Garden too]

– ...is that so?

That's good, she sighs feeling relieved.

[But—]

Claire continued, softening her voice.

[Those three people have consumed a great amount of energy, so they can't fight with their current status]

– In short, they are not going to appear in the battlefield.

[They won't be able to stay with us for a while. They'll be on standby together with the general Slayers. They are supposed to get into the recovery capsules]

In other words, that meant that they will have to fight against the three *Trenta* without them.

[As one would expect since the other party is our opponent, and even if that's the power those three people wished for, that's all there is to it. Let's deal with them, only us. I'll send you afterwards the position of the interception.

Understood?

– Yes, affirmative.

Firmly, Liddy replied.

## Chapter 5: Do-or-die Resistance *Return of Hayato*

### Master's Special Move

Members of the Selection team including Claire, Liddy, Erika, Emilia and others were gathering in the city of Sangria in preparation for the imminent massive invasion. All of them have already been deployed their Hundred, and are preparing for interception.

[Slayers deployed in Sangria, from now on Little Garden is entering in an interception stance!]

– Understood desuwa. We will also start to continuously shoot.

Claire answers the contact from Chris. Following those words, each Slayer turned their gun at the sky. Unlike the Savage so far, the next invasion is predicted to be simultaneous. Three dreadnaught, and three *Trenta*.

Six anti-aircraft missiles released from Little Garden rose to the sky and drew six flowers in the sky. Matching to that sign, Claire and the others also begins to shoot.

[Confirming the annihilation of all Savages' defensive membranes! Now, commence to move, extermination unit!]

– Well then Liddy, Erika, let's go masuwayo!

Talking to them, Claire kept on.

– Range team, please keep shooting to the Savages to divert them. In addition, the Slayers of the extermination team, together with us, will aim at the core of the Savage. Got it? I will not give detailed instructions. I will leave it to your judgment based on your experience already masuwa.

All the members present answered with a "Yes".

– A good cheerful reply desuwa. This is predicted to be the last invasion around Sangria. Nevertheless, fight until the end without losing your focus, let's all be soaked in rejoice with the victory of mankind!

Screaming, the first one that jumped out is Claire. She returns the *Buster Cannon* that she had at hand to the six floating batteries, and use them as a *thruster*, to approach it, being one hundred meters of the dreadnaught type. Therefore, detaching the *thruster* as six floating batteries which is its original function— she deployed them surrounding the Savage and commenced to attack. It is an attack with a beam following the shock of the fall. The dreadnaught type cannot take movement.

It is Emilia that attacks there.

She reduces the guns in the hand to particles, release *energy* from the *thruster* of the *Air Ride*, and quickly gets closer to the dreadnaught type—then creates a huge sickle with *Arms Shroud* and swings it downwards to the defensive barrier of the head.

– Deeih!

The tip of the sickle destroys the defensive barrier, and reaches the core. While spurting out a large amount of liquid of fluorescent color, one of the dreadnaught type sinks to the ground. Two dreadnaught types and three *Trenta* remain.

– I'll kill that *Trenta*! So Prez, take care of another *Trenta*!

Emilia reduces the sickle into particles while shouting and changes it to a bow. The other Slayers are launching an attack on the *Trenta* that is beyond the line of sight. To support that, Emilia fired an arrow of *energy* that explodes at the same time it comes in contact with. An explosion occurs at the head of the Savage. It couldn't do much damage to the defensive barrier, and as it raised the scissors overhead, the huge Savage trembles, its attack is suspended. Looking for that gap, the other Slayers set off an attack on the defensive barrier. Emilia also goes full throttle with the *thruster*, returns the bow to a sickle to attack the defensive barrier as well.

She flies towards the position of the *Trenta*.

– I cannot lose either.

Erika and Liddy battle the dreadnaught. Claire, as Emilia told her, sets one of the remaining three *Trenta* as her target, and gets closer with the six floating

batteries as a *thruster* at once.

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[Hayato-kun. Kisaragi Hayato-kun...]

Hayato woke up with a resounding voice inside the transport plane. The figure of Charlotte is reflected on a monitor that is grounded in front of him.

– Aah, good morning, Charlotte-san. What, what’s the matter?

While rubbing his eyes, Hayato asks.

[I have to ask you something, it’s just a minute. First of all, morning, Hayato-kun. The transport on which you are now is cruising smoothly over the Pacific Ocean. It will arrive in Little Garden in about one hour]

– Is that so...?

[Now, to the main topic. Little Garden is now in the middle of a Savage’s attack in the city of Sangria. Moreover, the situation is not too good]

– “Not too good”, what do you mean with that situation?

[At any rate, their numbers are too many. Even though we were able to beat most of the Savages, thanks to the excellent Slayers, including Liddy and the gang of three people, three more *Trenta* and three dreadnaught type invaded Little Garden. Claire and Emilia are also in a state of sortie. We almost exhausted all of our pieces. Thereupon, I earnestly request a favor to you]

– As soon as I arrive, am I going to sortie too?

[It depends on the circumstances from now on, can you?]

– Well, I think I’m okay.

He’s been sleeping for a while, so there seems to be no particular problem with his physical condition.

[Then, be prepared. Even you are exhausted due to the combat on Yamato. However the best thing would be for you to not come out. If I don’t have prepare a trump card, my nature will not settle down]

– Understood. I will prepare properly so that I can fulfill the expectations if I must go out.

Charlotte smiled happily listening to that reply of Hayato.

[In this little more than half a year, you are a considerable splendid Slayer that I've met so far. I am very happy that you are a member of Little Garden]

– Is that so?

[Indeed— Well then, make sure to come in contact as soon as you approach Little Garden. Until then, please take care of the preparations, as I requested]

\*\*\*

In the collapsed city of Sangria, the war with the Savages continued.

Erika and Liddy against one of the dreadnaught.

Emilia with a *Trenta*, and a dreadnaught type.

A total of four Savages have already been exterminated. The one remaining is another *Trenta*. Then abruptly, there was a communication from Chris.

[Everyone, please be careful! A huge UNKNOWN is approaching from the sky. It is a spherical mass of about thirty meters in length. I can't make the distinction if it is a Savage!]

– Eh? Then this is not the end of the attack!?

Emilia cried unexpectedly and looked up at the sky. Claire looks up at the sky in the same way. Then, they were able to see a huge object falling from the sky.

– Oh, that's the UNKNOWN desuno...? Erika, can you grasp it?

– Umm...

Erika expanded the flying object with a monitor embedded in the glasses and answered while checking.

– I can't confirm it, but it seems like a meteorite. It doesn't look like a Savage...

– In case the meteorite is a *Variable Stone*, I don't want to destroy it.

Claire put her hand on her mouth, in a troubled appearance.

[But, if it falls to the ground, a huge crater can be made on the ground]

That's what Chris said.

[Of course, the impact may result in a huge earthquake, and depending on the scale, not only the city, but including the surroundings, there's a possibility that all will be annihilated in an instant]

– That means that there is no choice but to destroy it.

[Claire-sama, the decision is—]

– No, there is no need to destroy it.

Who affirmed that was Liddy, fighting with the remaining *Trenta*.

– That ‘there is no need to”, what in the world do you intend to do desuno?

– I will stop the UNKNOWN!

Liddy pulled her arm and sent flying to the back the massive Savage in front of her with *Midgard Schrange*.

– To stop it, you say, a total length of thirty meters, are you sure desuwayo?

– If I deploy an E barrier with all my *energy*, it should not be impossible. Erika, tell me the falling point.

– That place is three hundred and fifty two meters west, and two hundred and twenty meters south... are you really going to stop it?

– Uh huh, it should be worth a try.

Liddy heads to the falling point using the *thruster*. And reduces *Midgard Shcrange* to particles—. Then she put her free hands in the sky and deploys an E barrier. Claire and the others held their mouths from gulping watching attentively, as the gigantic meteorite contacted Liddy's deployed E barrier.

– Guh, uuh....!!

The impact of UNKNOWN which has fallen from space, is considerable. Liddy has an expression of anguish. Still, she did not give up.

– Uuoooooooooh!

When Liddy gave a loud voice, a large amount of *energy* was released from the *thruster* of the *Air Ride* so as to raise the E barrier throughout the body.

However, the E barrier cracked. It collapses in an instant, the E barrier breaks

apart and the UNKNOWN falls to the earth.

– Liddy!

Claire gave a sorrowful voice.

Fortunately, there is little damage to the earth's surface, since the E barrier developed by Liddy almost absorbed the falling energy of the meteorite. Following the slight earthquake, a cloud of dust raised.

– Claire-sama, she is okay. Liddy was able to avoid it at the last moment.

Claire took a breath feeling relieved, after hearing the calm voice of Liddy. Then, she asks a question through the wireless.

– Liddy, can you hear me? Please answer if you are safe and sound.

[I can hear you, Claire-sama. I'm fine]

Almost at the same time as the reply came, Liddy appeared from the cloud of dust. It looks like she is pretty tired.

– ...I'm sorry, Claire-sama. I almost exhausted my *energy* now, I can't bring back my weapon.

– Liddy, you don't have to apologize. You did it well. Nevertheless, what is that desuno...?

Claire gazed at the mysterious object that could clearly see as the cloud of dust has become thin. It looks like a huge meteorite, but it has a lot of holes.

– What on earth are those holes desuno?

Claire approaches to the mysterious meteorite to confirm what's inside the holes. Suddenly, all the holes began to overflow with golden light.

– Eh? What on earth, that's...!

Emilia, who was trying to put an attack on the Savage which Liddy sent flying on the vicinity, also shouted instinctively, so she stopped her movements, looking at the huge meteorite that looks like the pattern of a speckles in golden light.

Moreover, that huge ore rose up from the earth's surface.



– Everyone prepare to defend! I have a bad feeling about this.

The presentiment of Erika was right. The ore stopped at about one meter from ground surface, and while spinning and floating lightly, fired beams intermittently. Naturally it damaged not only Claire, Erika and Liddy, but also Emilia and the other Slayers.

– Kuh, really, what in the world is that desunoyo!

Claire uses the *thruster* to fly upward. Then she talked to Liddy, who is avoiding the beam from the mysterious object that lies on the ground.

– Liddy, you are an injured Slayer, please leave this place together with the Slayers whose *energy* have run out just like you!

– But, Claire-sama.... That, my responsibility...

– That might be true, but you won't be able to defeat it now. It is part of the duties as Vice-President to safely protect the allies.

– ...I see, understood.

Liddy obediently withdraws, and called out to the allies on the wireless.

She says something that the objective to the people is to retreat together.

– When it becomes like this, it can't be helped.

Despite being damaged, Claire descends to the rooftop of a building that is somehow still in shape and converts the six floating batteries into particles—once again, she made *Buster Cannon*. Of course, the target is the mysterious object.

– With this, I will destroy it—

Claire poured energy into *Buster Cannon's* muzzle towards the mysterious object, and tried to release a bombardment. In that moment, from the mysterious object something came out one after another from its direction.

– Are those, bees?

Seeing that she remembered it, that Vitaly made Hornet type Savage.

(Are these things also artificial? No, they are different masuwa...!)

Their length is about fifty centimeters, the steel shell covering the body is the same black as the Savage. Speaking of different things, it can be seen that the golden shining core is in the abdomen, and that the color of the pattern is a systematic color. In other words, it actually means that that Savage of the Hornet type existed. Moreover, Claire is attacked by four dozens of them all at once.

– ...kuh!

The mysterious object loses its light, and fell to the ground. It doesn't emit beams anymore. That means that the light and beams would have been due to the Hornet type Savage that was hanging inside. Then, there's no point in shooting to that thing anymore. Claire returns *Buster Cannon* to the six floating batteries, and attempts to shoot the Hornet type.

But the movement of the Hornet type is light and fast.

– Kuh...n! Kuah, aaaah!

The beam emitted from the head can be prevented with E barrier, but the problem is the needle attack. It can be done if it were one, but if they are gathered it is impossible to defend against it. Claire's Variable Suit suddenly was torn down by the cuts.



She is also bleeding from the skin.

(Furthermore this, the Variant Virus can flow in masuwane...)

Seeing that, the areas around the wounds were dyed blue. Those are just grazes. But it can turn into something serious if she gets stabbed.

[Prez, you need help?]

It's a communication from Emilia who's in a battle with a *Trenta*.

– That's not necessary! Because I ordered to Liddy that I will to stop it, then I will deal with it. You and the rest, go away!

Cried Claire, using the six floating batteries as a *thruster*, to separate once again from the Hornet type.

(It can't be helped if it have become to this...)

In order to protect herself, there's no choice than to be in full armament.

– Here I go masuwayo, full armament!

Fierce energy was radiated from the body of Claire. The thick armor covers the body in no time.

(This seems like if it was a match desuwane)

The Hornet types were hesitant to attack on the glow of intense *energy* during transformation, so rushed to attack Claire again. Looking at that figure, Claire relaxed her mouth as planned. There's no choice but to counter numbers with numbers.

If that's the case—

– <Small floating batteries> *Petals*!

When Claire shouted, <<Two small floating batteries>> *Petals* were fired from each of the six floating batteries. Six floating batteries, and twelve small floating batteries.

It's an attack with a total of sixteen floating batteries\*. Claire shoots down the Hornet type Savages one after another.

\*TN: Maybe there are two that won't attack as are being used as a *thruster*?

– Fuu... I have managed it somehow desuwane...

After shooting down all the Hornet type Savages, Claire breathed feeling relieved at the center of the dead bodies.

[Claire-sama, are you all right?]

It's a communication from Erika.

– I got a little injured, but it's no more than this degree. Apart from that, I must do something about that Savage—

Claire, who reduced the floating batteries to particles, puts *energy* on the *Buster Cannon* that she created. However, the target is the *Trenta* that is in battle with Emilia. If she releases a bombardment at full power in this situation, she will also get involved in that.

– Emilia, step aside!

Claire jumped high, shouting as the *energy* filling was over.

Emilia was timing the moment to attack with the axe created by *Arms Shroud* while dodging the swung down scissors, but in response to that voice, she confirms the figure of Claire with a fleeting glance. Thereupon, she seems to understand what Claire is about to do.

Immediately after reducing the axe to particles and creating two gun barrels, Emilia released *energy* all at once and quickly emerged to the sky in a blink of an eye. There is no obstacle between Claire and the *Trenta*.

– Here I go, full power bombardment!

Claire shot a bunch of concentrated lights from *Buster Cannon*.

It is brilliant, it goes through the bodies and cores of each Savage respectively.

– Seems like everything is done with this desuwane.

At the same time Claire lands, she dropped her shoulders and sighed. What suddenly entered there was a communication from Chris.

[It's terrible, Claire-sama!]

– ...what is it, so suddenly desuno?

There was no introduction. In addition, as his voice was quite impatient, Claire's facial expression became meek in an instant.

[The threat of new Savage is coming after Sangria]

– What are you saying desuno? Just a short time ago, it was the last one...

[Is just as you say, but it seems that it suddenly appeared in the void of space. That reaction was caught by <<LiZA>>. The enemies are three *Trenta*, and the measures estimates that it will fall in the vicinity of Claire-sama]

– Three *Trenta*, you say...

Claire's facial expression is dyed in despair. There's no doubt that they have to deal with three more *Trenta* in a state close to their limits—.

[We are currently investigating in cooperation with the Liberian Space Station whether other similar phenomena and new Savages are appearing]

– ...kuh.

Claire bites her lips with a severe expression and asks Chris.

– What's the level of *energy* left of Erika and Emilia Hermit?

[It is a little more than of Claire-sama]

– Thank you very much. I grasped the situation.

Honestly harsh. That is the real intention.

– Three more of them, we will manage it somehow. Maybe I'll have to absolutely make my best effort too.

Emilia, who lands on the side of Claire, made a gun with *Arms Shroud*, the shape of her mouth was broadly grinning, showing composure. Words of 'don't you agree?' were looking at the expression of Claire.

– Perhaps we will have to rely on your seriousness, as Kisaragi Hayato is not here now. In that case, please take care of them masuwa.

Claire smiles with a puff to Emilia's consideration and starts to put *energy* on *Buster Cannon* that she is holding.

– I think Prez will be surprised too. But, it would have been better to not want to use it if possible. Besides the Prez still has a method to use the power of Variant.

– ...about that, I want to avoid it if possible, though.

The power of Variant received from Kisaragi Hayato has never been used since <<Operation: Bird in the Cage>>. She doesn't know if she can control it skillfully to that extent.

[You should be able to see the Savages soon. Everyone, good luck on the battlefield!]

– Well then, let's go!

– Yeah, as you say.

Emilia and Claire, who had become in a posture similar to back to back, looked at each other's faces and smiled in unison, and pointed the muzzles to the sky together.

\*\*\*

After finishing his meal, a bread that he got when he left Yamato, Hayato, who changed his clothes to Variable Suit, was stretching on the sheet laid on the floor on the rear part of the transport.

[Kisaragi-san, a transmission from Dr. Charlotte]

It is a transmission from the pilot who's planning on arriving at Little Garden in a bit more.

– Understood. Please transfer it.

When Hayato said so, the figure of Charlotte appeared on the monitor in front of him.

[Hayato-kun, I'm afraid to say you'll have to sortie]

– That means that, the situation is bad?

[The battle took over a long period of time, all the *energy* of the Slayers deployed in the city of Sangria, including Claire, Emilia Erika and Liddy are running out. Moreover, the opponents they are fighting are three *Trenta*. There are three invading, after the six of before.

– In other words, I have no choice but to manage this situation.

[That's how it is. However there is no plan to withdraw temporarily until the

reinforcements are ready, the Savages for the time being are aiming at Little Garden. Thanks to the shield generated by <<LiZA>> we have prevented the attacks so far, but I would like to avoid getting any more damage, if possible]

She did not say it clearly, but what she means is that she doesn't want to consume Liza's *energy* anymore.

[We do have other trump cards so you don't need to get worked up. But, I think that I want you to decide it by yourself if possible. Those trump cards, are too harmful]

– ...okay. Then, I'll adhere to your instructions.

[We will be saved if you accept to do so. The invasion on the outskirts of Sangria of the three should be over. Therefore, I request you to do your best]

Hayato walks towards the hatch in the frontal part of the transport plane. On the way, he passed to the side of Touka. She was sleeping profoundly on a chair that was brought down like a bed. She looks very pleasant.

– I'll leave her like that. Could you please open the hatch?

When Hayato said so, the co-pilot came out and opened the hatch.

– Take care of Touka.

– Of course, I will deliver her firmly to Dr. Charlotte. Other than that, are you really leaving from here? Is it okay if it's not landing?

– I already experienced to fall in this way, so.

Hayato leans out of the hatch and checks the situation on the battlefield. There was a height of about fifty meters, but he could see the president and Emilia who were fighting the *Trenta*.

(Such a way to fight that she has, huh...)

Hayato is dumbfounded. Emilia injected energy fiercely to the *thruster* instead of shooting from all of the missile pods towards the *Trenta* who was about to bombard towards Little Garden. <<Release Attachment>> *Purge* the *Outer* from the attacked body and shoots to the Savage.

Splendidly, it hits the *Trenta*. The Savage tumbles, and temporarily stops



moving. However, the external armament is worn out, and it's unlikely to be able to attach it again.

[Hayato-kun, I forgot to mention one thing]

Charlotte's voice echoes in the transport machine.

[Right now, your *energy* is only about half of usual. Therefore, I want you to avoid fighting for too long. Got it?]

– Got it.

The opponents are three *Trenta*.

That was why Hayato was going to go with all his power. He has no choice but to decide the victory in an instant.

– Ok then, I'm going!

Hayato took out two Hundred from the neck case, and grasped tightly both of them in each hand, and jumped.

It looks like he got accustomed to the sky due to *Air Ride*. There is also certainty that he is able and that he can deploy the armament. Because of that, there was not much to fear.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Hayato shouted while falling to the ground. His body is instantly wrapped in red particles which is the color of his *energy*.

Suddenly full armament— and <<Double Deployment>> *Dual Act*. Hayato has a black sword and a white sword, and falls down to the *Trenta* that is battling with Claire and assaults it with his swords.

– Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Hayato's eyes shone in golden color. It is the release of the power of Variant.

– That's....!

– Hayato, it is Hayato!

Claire and Emilia gave their voices one after another. At the same time, the two swords of Hayato were swung down to the head of the *Trenta*.

The attack of the slash combining it with the speed of the fall, it can be guessed that it was pretty powerful. The large build of the *Trenta* sinks in the earth, its defensive barriers and its core are destroyed as a matter of course.

– Hayato, why are you here!?

Emilia rushed to Hayato whose shoulders are up and down, with a *Haa Haa*, and with the swords in a swung downward posture. Hayato's eyes color have already returned to their original black.

– I dropped off from the transport plane on the way back from Yamato. I heard from Charlotte that you and the president's *energy* are near the limit.

– It was just like that.

The president also came closer to Hayato when he noticed.

– President, leave it to me from here on. I will manage the two that remain.

– What are you getting on with that tone masuno? Even we can still fight masuwa. Isn't it, Emilia?

– Of course.

Emilia responded gladly to Claire's appeal. Erica's voice echoes there.

– Claire-sama, one of the Savages has decided to aim for us!

Hayato crawled and looked around because of that voice. It is the figure of a *Trenta* that jumped in his field of vision and which just opened its head.

– Kuh!

Hastily, Emilia made a gun with *Arms Shroud*, aimed and shot out. However, there seems to be no effect on the *Trenta*.

– If that's the case, then I'll do it!

Claire also tries to shoot at the *Trenta* with *Buster Cannon*. But Hayato stopped her.

– It's okay, president. I will stop the bombardment of that Savage.

– Wha—!

And then, in a moment. Hayato who kicked the ground was approaching the

bosom of *Trenta*. And in addition to that, he releases the power of the Variant.

– Take thiiiiiiiiiiiis!

Hayato, who has dyed his eyes in golden color, slashed with his two swords on the abdomen of the *Trenta*, which is about to release a bombardment.

Not only stopped the bombardment, but Hayato sent flying away the large sized *Trenta* about two hundred meters to the back. Hayato tries to pursue it, but the *Trenta* immediately recovers its stance and swings up its right-handed scissors in order to knock down Hayato who's aiming at the defensive barrier.

– Guh...!

Hayato tried to block the swept-off scissors with his two swords, but their weight and momentum threw him to the ground. The length of the *Trenta's* scissors are more than five meters, so their weight will not be less than one hundred kilos.

– Kisaragi Hayato!

Claire raises her voice with a grim expression on her face. On the other hand, Emilia was not perturbed at all.

– He is fine, Prez. If it's Hayato in an unleashed state, there should be nothing to worry.

Immediately after Emilia said that, reflected in Claire's eyes is the big body of the *Trenta* that is launched to the skies from within the cloud of dust. Like a small spinning object, it falls while rotating in the air many times, and slams on the ground from the back.

As soon as the *Trenta* reverses its body and tries to get up, there already, Hayato who jumped high was swinging up the two swords at the same time, approaching.

– This guy too!

Hayato swiftly swung downward the two blades with enormous *energy*, destroying the defensive barrier and the core.

– ...one, guy left, huh.

At the same time that he lands, he turned his eyes to the remaining *Trenta*. However, his body is staggering. To control the state of Variant, it consumes considerable physical strength and force of will.

The limit was already approaching.

(Even so, I have to do it!)

Hayato kicked the ground and tried to attack the remaining *Trenta*.

To shorten the distance, he jumps targeting the core. But, in the middle of that, a shock came before his eyes, and Hayato collapsed on the ground. At the same time the pupils return to black, the white sword and the black sword—. Not only the two swords extinguished, Hayato's armed state was cancelled.

– Hayato, are you okaay!?

In a panic Emilia rushed to Hayato, and holds up his body in her arms.

– I guess so. But, it looks like I can't fight anymore...

– Along with the power of Variant, the *energy* has also run out. Apart from that, Hayato. Is that, you used the power of Variant in Yamato too?

– ...yeah, a lot of things happened.

– As I thought. If it's the usual Hayato, he should be able to continue the state of Variant while controlling it for a long time properly. If that's the case—.

Emilia put her hands on the cheeks of Hayato. And, she kissed him.

– Chuu... nnh... chuu...

It's a long kiss that extended for several seconds.

– Yo-you, what are you doing in a place like this so suddenly...!

At the same time Emilia released her mouth, Hayato screamed with his face turned red.

– That's right desuwayo, what are you doing desuu!

Claire who was petrified by looking at the two kissing, also screams with her face bright red.

– It can't be helped. Because it's the best to do it like this. How about you,

Hayato? Are you feeling a little better now?

– Oh...!

Certainly it is as Emilia says. The heaviness of his body is disappearing.

– Thanks, Emilia.

– Ehehe, my pleasure.

– ... umm, Emilia.

– What?

– Behind you.

– ...eh?

The facial expression of Emilia who looked over her shoulder, became stiff. The *Trenta* was right behind her and it was raising its scissors.

– Good grief, you guys!

Claire released *energy* shots consecutively from *Buster Cannon* that she had in her arms.

*DON DON*, explosions occurred on the head of the *Trenta*. For a moment, the movement of the scissors ceased and *Trenta* turned its face to Claire. But immediately turns to Hayato and Emilia, and swings downward the scissors once again.

– Please leave this to me— <<Chains of Absolute Fate>> *Everlasting*!

Erika who created a pink chain in her hands shoots it and wraps it around the arms of the *Trenta*.

– Claire-sama, shoot it as I am containing it now! Emilia and Hayato, please escape immediately!

– I know masuwa! With all my strength, this is end!

Claire pours *energy* into *Buster Cannon*. An alert sounds and shows that *energy* is almost already depleted, it's an opportunity for Erika to do it even if it takes a lot of effort. This is not the place to care about that. If they defeat this *Trenta*, everything will be over. Even if her energy is zero, she must hold it

there.

– ...h, kuh!

Erika's expression is distorted by pain. Due to the *Trenta* showing resistance, her arms with chains were approaching their limits. But Claire's *Buster Cannon's* energy filling rate is still seventy percent. It's no way enough to destroy the core of the *Trenta* with its defensive barriers.

– Kyaah!?

At seventy five percent, the limit finally arrived for Erika. She, who lost before the power of *Trenta's* arm, her body was lifted together with her chain, and immediately was knocked down hard to the ground.

– Kuah!

Cracks enter to the lens of the glasses, they hang to further being crushed. But she is still keeping her state of armament, her body moves twitchingly, it can be said that she was spared. It seems that she is trying to contain that body. The *Trenta* extends the scissors to the body of Erika.

– Stop it!

Claire aims at the large build of her enemy and released the beam. To that extent, she couldn't pull apart Erika from the *Trenta*. It was possible to break through the barrier developed on the surface of the steel shell, but it did a mere scratch on it.

– Kuh...!

Claire shows a regrettable facial expression. The scissors of the *Trenta* touch Erika and lift her body.

– Erika-san!

– Erika!

Hayato and Claire. One can wonder if she regained her mind with the sorrowful screams of the two of them.

Erica's eyelids opened. It seems she finally grasped the situation.

– Kisaragi Hayato and... Claire-sama...? I am... kuh...!

Erika develops an E barrier around her body so that the scissors won't crush her. On the contrary, she tries to open the scissors with the power of the *energy* as it is, but she couldn't do that. Her body is lifted in a position higher than the head of the *Trenta*. And the head of that just opened. What can be seen inside is a muzzle.

(Don't tell me, its intention is to shoot to Erika-san?)

However, it was not that. The muzzle starts to morph and changes its shape. Sharp teeth appear, and something like a tongue is shown.

– That thing, no way...

Claire is in a state of bewilderment. The scissors in its arms transformed into gun-like things, and she knew that it was rare for a Savage to change from a turret inside the mouth to a *gatling gun*.

And so she heard that among them there were those that turned something into a tongue inside their mouths. So that means that those are individuals who eat people. In this situation, one of them have appeared—.

At that time, Hayato remembered something.

(That's right, at that time too...)

It was in Gudenburg, ten years ago. The Savage which captured Emilia at that time, he remembered that there was something like teeth, a mouth and a tongue instead of a muzzle on the head.

– Ah, aaah....!

Emilia was trembling next to Hayato. The *Trenta* keeps approaching its head, in order to eat Erika.

– Ua, ah...aaah...

The voice continues to leak bit by bit from the mouth of Emilia. Becoming aware of that, she crumbles down to the ground from her knees.

– Hey, Emilia, be strong! If you aren't, we will not be able to save Erika-san!

– ...tsu, sorry, Hayato... if you move from here, I may not be able to stay as me.... So, Hayato...

– Ah...!

Hayato noticed that Emilia's eyes are dying in golden color.

(Maybe, the ability of the Variant is running wildly?)

*DOKUN*, the heart of Hayato throbbed.

Even himself, if he awakes the Variant now that is in an exhausted state, it may run out of control. But still, they need to save the Vice-president—.

– Kisaragi Hayato, Emilia Hermit. In the case that you want to use the power of the Variant, then I will do it masuwa.

With that voice, Hayato is taken aback.

Last summer, <<Operation: Bird in the cage>>. When Hayato shared the Variant's power with a kiss.

– With the power of the Variant, even though the strength goes beyond the limit and the energy is temporary, you will be able to withdraw, don't you agree? And thereupon, I will punch the body of the Savage, and save Erika masuwa!

– No, what are you saying, President!? It is dangerous to do such a thing. To begin with, the power of the Variant is dangerous...

– Erika, I promised something a long time ago. As long as I stay by your side, no matter what happens, I will absolutely save you. For that reason, I will do whatever it takes masuwa. This, you will not die. That is my promise to Erika. So, kiss me to—

– Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Hayato was surprised to that voice, which suddenly jumped into his ear. The same is true for Claire who was talking, and for Emilia who was running out of control.

– That voice of now...

Hayato turns his line of sight towards the voice approaching from afar.

Hem with a black sword in her hand, he was able to see a little girl who dashes through the ground while shaking her ponytails like a flame.



– Why is she, here in this place...?

– Hayato, do you know that girl?

– Ah, uh huh...

Touka jumped high with the huge *Trenta's* corpse as a foothold, and slashed from above to the arm of the *Trenta* that seizes Erika.



If it is an ordinary sword it will definitely be broken, and if it is an ordinary

slash, the hand will be numb or it will be bounced back. But what Touka is holding is the sword that Hokuto, the father of the girl made, and a slash practiced and worked out by Ryūsei that she released. So even though she couldn't cut the arm, it seems that she managed to loosen its strength. In that gap, Erika puts effort on both arms and opens the scissors of the *Trenta*.

Erika's body falls to the ground. And almost at the same time. Touka, who landed first, stood in front of the *Trenta* and held the sword high in the sky.

– Take thiis!

The sword once again swung down swiftly, and knocks down the large body of the *Trenta* backwards.

– Kisaragi Hayato, don't tell me that girl's...

It seems like Claire, who had already been told about Touka, have felt something.

Hayato shook vertically his head as if it were that.

– Hayato, that!

– Huh?

As a result of Emilia screaming loudly, Hayato suddenly notices that Touka, who was trying to pursue the *Trenta*, is holding her shoulder, and falls to her knees.

The wounds of the wild dog that attacked on that occasion seemed to throb.

– Hey, are you okay!?

– Shinshishō! Don't worry about me. Leaving that aside, use this—.

Touka threw the sword that she had in her hand to Hayato.

– This is...

Hayato received the sword that the father of Touka made, a sword that he forged.

– I'm afraid to say that I'm not able to fight any further. However, Shinshishō can still move. So, I leave the rest to you.

– That’s, is it possible for me to do the *Zaneizan* with this sword?

– Of course!

The blood begins to blot on the bandage and while pressing the right shoulder with her hand, Touka continues.

– If it is Shinshishō, he will definitely be able to do it. At any rate, Shinshishō is, my Shinshishō!

Hayato unexpectedly smiles to those things that she said, and he doesn’t know whether if she has persuasive power or not.

– Fine. I’m gonna try. About why are you here, you will tell me later, okay?

Hayato readies his sword, and glares at the *Trenta*.

(This feeling, it’s been a long time ago)

Although he is wearing a Variable Jacket\*, and his *energy* is nearly exhausted, in the end Hayato is not a normal human being. He can neither accelerate nor jump by using *energy*.

***\*TN: This is not a mistake, is written like that in the raw. Maybe an unspotted error?***

(But, there is no other way!)

Hayato kicked the ground. He jumped with the corpse of the Savage as a foothold, just as it was done by Touka.

In response to the attack of Touka, he swung the sword towards the *shelter* of the *Trenta* which is currently in a forward-bent posture.

– Eat this, from my master! A sword technique created by Kenzaki Ryūsei— Secret Style Sword Technique, *Zaneizan*!!

Starts with a one long sword—.

At the moment when the slash collided with the resistance of the *shelter*, he once again released a second long sword.

– You did it!

Touka shouted at the sight of the *shelter* crumbling like sand. However, the

core has not been destroyed yet.

Of course Hayato also noticed that.

– Then, I will do it one more time!

The ability of Variant of Hayato was coming back due to the kiss with Emilia. Those eyes shine in a golden color. At the same time the world changed into slow motion.

(I'll do it! I can do it!)

Believing so, he draw the sword a second time, and thrust the tip towards the core. A sensation of destruction is transmitted to the hand.

(It looks like I managed to do it, I suppose)

It was a fleeting moment of feeling relieved. The color of the eyes returns to normal, and the movement of the world also goes back. Along with the collapse of the large build, Hayato's body also fell to the ground.

– This really hurts...

Naturally, he couldn't land properly. Claire and Emilia come closer to Hayato who destroyed the balance of his body with all his strength and falls on his backside to the ground.

– You did it, Hayato.

– Well, in a way or another, it was thanks to... this...

Hayato got shocked by looking at the sword that he had in his hand. The blade of that was broken. Then exactly at that, Touka come along while holding her shoulder.

– That is...

Looking at the sword broken in half, her eyes are rounded.

– It's bad, because of me, has ended up like this.

Maybe the sword technique was not perfect? Or, was it because the power of the Variant was too much? He doesn't know.

– Shinshishō, the sword—.

To the hand that was presented, he handed over the sword. Touka looked at the broken sword in her hand, and stared to the broken sword with a sorrow look on her face.

– Surely, Chichi-ue is pleased. This sword too, it's satisfied to be broken in battle, while protecting the earth from the Savage....

Touka crouches down completely, and picks up the broken blade.

While touching it and brushing it gently, she continues her words.

– Besides, originally, it is also my fault because I appeared in this place. So, you don't have to worry, Shinshishō.

– Oh, you are right. You, why are you here...?

[That, I can explain it]

It is a forced communication from Charlotte.

[She awoke right after Hayato-kun jumped off the transport plane. She begged me to drop off as well. Otherwise she would have jumped off forcibly from here]

– You, why do you have you have to do such unreasonable things...

– Shinshishō have helped me, right? Then, if something happened to Shinshishō, I thought that I had to help him.

– So, Charlotte-san told the pilot to drop Touka?

[I told him that it was good only if she can see from the top of the cliff a bit away. I never thought that it would end up like this, you know?]

That said, Charlotte laughed.

– You must be kidding, Charlotte Dimandius. That's the thing about you. Anyway, you anticipated this, am I correct?

[Well, rather than using you or Emilia that could run wild, and therefore use the power of the songs of Karen and Sakura, I thought that it would be nice to have the Savage defeated with her power. As a result, it was Hayato-kun, and his power who broke the sword. Finally, Kenzaki Touka—]

– Ah, yes!

[That sword, show it to me later. Perhaps repairs are possible. Only if you wish for that]

– Ah, yes!

Touka nods happily. Following that, Hayato said.

– At any rate, I’m glad everyone are safe. Because as this was called the *Third Attack*, I thought that this would be more of a serious matter.

It is ten years since the *Second Attack*. During that time, is it possible that the mankind have gotten stronger because of the Hundred?

Although it was too much of a hard fight, the battle of this time progressed steadily, but Hayato still has an uncomfortable feeling for some reason. — And,

– From such a thing, I have something that I want to ask to Hayato.

Suddenly Emilia pinches his cheek, and Hayato raised his voice.

– Ouch, what are you doing!?

– Who on earth is that girl? Why in the world is she calling you “Shinshishō”? There are a lot of things that I want to ask so, won’t you begin to explain them to me?

# Epilogue

The sound of twenty one blank shots aimed at the sky by the snipers resounded at the second base of Liberia. This place is a base of collaboration under the state management where the Liberian soldiers, Warslan Company's soldiers and Slayers who died in the fight against the Savage on and after the *First Attack* are resting. Fritz and Latia were visiting this base together with the three members of the Student Council: Claire, Liddy and Erika. It is to join the funeral of the soldiers and Slayers who were the victims of the *Third Attack*. It was not part of the duty of the special corps, nor was it an obligation from the Student Council.

It is for a companion who fought together with them and so they wanted to participate in the funeral of Bergryd, a person of their admiration, who showed to them the way of the Slayer. Among the same attendants, they could see Kane and Wendy, the Slayers of the Liberian army who fought together with Latia and Fritz and under Bergryd's command. The funeral ceremony has already ended in another place. The thing that remains is the burial in the grave. There are a total of twenty people to bury today.

The burial of the first five people is over and Bergryd's turn comes.

– Your deceased husband, Bergryd Leonhardt, sacrificed himself in duty to protect the peace of the Federal State and the lives of its people. Respecting that courage and resolution, flags were sent from the United States of Liberia and Warslan Company, respectively.

Along with the prayers of the priest, the flags of the Liberian States and Warslan Company, which covered the coffin of Bergryd, were removed and handed over to the bereaved family, his wife, from the Secretary of Defense of the United States of Liberia and from Judal, the president of Warslan Company.

Looking at that, the boy tilted his head.

– Mama, what is this?

The one who asked is the son of Bergryd. It looks like since he is four years old, he doesn't comprehend about his father's death.



– This is a proof that papa lived as a brave Slayer.

The young wife of Bergryd answered, and lifted the boy's body. The figure of his father, who has closed his eyes, is reflected in the eyes of the lifted up boy whose body is wrapped up in two flags. He is sleeping with a peaceful face.

– Now Say goodbye to papa. Say good night to him.

– Good night, papa.

Bergryd's wife was enduring her tears, and as a mother, she was showing to his son until the end the braveness of his father. She was trying to carve to him, his father as a proud soldier and a wonderful man on his chest.

The lacrimal glands of Latia who was watching that figure break down. She restrains the inner corner of her eyes, but the overflowing tears cannot be stop. Sobs also leak. Fritz gently hugged that body.

– Then, blessings to you and everyone in this place, and those five brave warriors heading to heaven—.

<<Funeral March>> *Requiem's* performance by the brass player begins. The face of Bergryd is hidden with light clothes, and that time came at last. Along with other four person killed in action, his coffin will be buried into the ground. The ceremony completes its first stage with this. But if it's looked at the whole, it's not over the half yet. This ceremony itself will last for three days, and today is the second day. That's because the victims in the *Third Attack* were numerous.

– No! I won't recognize it! I don't like this!

It was a girl belonging to the Liberian army's Slayer troops who suddenly raised her voice in the middle of the funeral ceremony and crumbled down to the floor. The years not only ended up for Fritz and the others. It seems that a friend of her died on the battlefield.

– I don't want you to die yet. Please don't die!

– Hey, pull yourself together.

– What are you going to do with this disturbance of yours in front of Katerina?

– Katerina is smiling, you know!?

Likewise, the Warslan's Slayers who were nearby crouched in a hurry, and talked gently to the girl. But the girl never calmed down.

– But, I may die next time! And like Katerina, I... uwaah, aaaah, aaaaaaaaaaaaahh!

– She, perhaps is no good for her anymore...

– There are people who lose their dear friends for the first time and in such a way. Some of them will not be able to return to the battlefield again.

In the noise, such a conversation jumps into the ears of Fritz and Latia. In such circumstances, Latia declared while her trembling fists.

– Fritz, I'm not quitting, ok?

Latia is trying to keep on her words by inhaling through her nose.

To such trembling hand of the girl, Fritz gripped tightly with one of his.



– ...Fritz... I, as long as I have this body, I will continue fighting. I will continue

fighting to succeed the will of Bergryd-san and of those who died in this battle.

That is her declaration of determination. Those are daring words that she spoke of, in order to strengthen like the steel that was about to break.

– If so, then I’m going to stick with you until then.

Fritz, said that puffing with a gentle smile.

– If that’s the case, then promise to me. That you will not die first than me. Absolutely.

– Yeah, I promise.

As they were, they held hands all the time until the funeral was over. Carving promises deeply into each other’s chest, which will last forever—.

\*\*\*

One week passed since the massing of troops of the *Third Attack*. Little Garden is hardly damaged. It is possible to sail to the Pacific Ocean at once. Nonetheless, for the time being, three weeks have been announced by the Student Council to stay at Sangria’s Harbor to help restore the city of Sangria.

Three days of rest, there are almost no injuries and the Slayer’s physical strength and *energy* have returned to nearly normal condition. Therefore most of the Slayers participated in helping the restoration works. Emilia and Hayato are no exception. Today’s also the first day, and they were helping in the restoration works in the city of sangria wearing their Variable Suits. Because they are members of the special team, they were allowed to deploy their Hundred under approval from the Student Council, and are in great demand in deconstruction sites and the like.

– We are almost finishing today’s work, huh?

Muttered Hayato, and in front of his eyes the rubble was turning red due to the shining of the setting sun. It is decided that the work will end before sunset.

– Looks like that.

It was Emilia who was dealing with the rubble together with Hayato. Suddenly, her *wireless ring* makes a sound.

– Hmm, I wonder who it is.

Emilia directed her eyes towards the *ring* in her arm, and looked up at the name emerging from there and raised her voice.

– It's from Charo!

Emilia accepts the communication request. Of course it is Charlotte's voice that she heard.

[Hello, do you have a minute?]

– Sure but, has something happened?

Emilia answers.

[Since Hayato-kun is there too. So, listen together. We need to talk a matter about Kenzaki Touka]

– Has something happened to Touka?

Hayato, who's on the side, interposed with his mouth. Touka is now hospitalized at the hospital of Little Garden. Although the problematic about her physical condition it is not to that extent, it is to treat the injury in her shoulder, and to take various tests.

[No, there's nothing in particular. Looks like she is fine, and that she can leave the hospital immediately. However, there's something that I want to try before that]

– Something you want to try, what would be?

Hayato wonders about what it is.

[For little, it's related to her **ability**]

With that said, Charlotte continued.

[Depending on the result of the test, it will be decided whether she will stay in Little Garden for now or not. That's why, I think that you guys must see it. Surely, I think that you will see something interesting, so wouldn't you come to the training ground in an hour?]

\*\*\*

Hayato and Emilia, who immediately returned to Little Garden from the city of Sangria, decided to get on the invitation of Charlotte, and quickly changed from their Variable Suits to their school uniforms and reached the training field below ground of the Slayer's school building at the specified time.

– Hayato-kun and Emilia-san, both of you came.

It's Mei Mei, a girl in maid dress, and an assistant of Charlotte who is waving her hands to Hayato and Emilia, facing them from the entrance of the field.

– Touka-san and Charlotte-sama are in the modification room over there, but I think they will come out soon. Hayato-san and Emilia-san, please wait in the field.

When prompted by Mei Mei, Hayato and Emilia step into the field. It was Karen who first noticed their existence.

– Oh, Nii-san!

She raised her voice and comes closer.

– You finally came. You made it barely in time, you know?

That's what was said by Sakura, who's next to Karen.

– Our bad, we were doing our job at Sangria and— hmm, regardless of President, why are you also here?

Sakura, Claire and Karen were all together in the field. Claire is wearing a red uniform, showing that she is the Student Council President, and the other three remaining were wearing their uniforms.

– What, is it wrong if I stay?

Sakura glares to Hayato with her eyes half-closed.

– No, that's not what I mean, but...

– Actually, today Karen and Sakura have undergone physical examination at the hospital. Then we were told by Charlotte-san that she will show us something interesting, and we heard that Nii-san will also come, so we thought that we should come. Souffle-san said that she will also come.

– As an engineer I got pretty excited.

Souffle smiled happily. In the end, three people seem to have come to this place for the same reason as Hayato and Emilia.

– Well, it seems that the spectators are assembled, so let's begin at once.

The voice of Charlotte reverberated in the field.

As usual, her mouth had candy with sticks

A girl in a sleeveless undergarment, Mihal, who is the nurse in charge of Kenzaki Touka, comes into the field..

– ...eh, Shinshishō? Why are you here...?

Looking at Hayato's figure, Touka opened her mouth in surprise. And Hayato answers.

– That is, because there is something that it will be shown with your ability, so we came here as we were told by Charlotte-san.

– My ability? What, what is it?

Touka tilted her head in puzzlement. Apparently it seems that she didn't hear that Hayato will come to this place, and that she hasn't been told what she will do from now.

– Simple put, we are going to test whether your strength is suitable for use in Little Garden. There is a present for you before that. Mei Mei, can you hand it over to her?

– Yes, understood!

In answer, Mei Mei rushed down to Touka on a trot, took out a small black box from her maid's pocket clothes and opened it.

– Please accept this kindly.

What is in the box is a shining black jewel. Picking up and taking a look at it, Touka said.

– By some chance, this thing is a Hundred, right?

– Wha—.

Claire makes her eyes round after listening to Touka's words.

– What! A Hundred for her, what on earth does this mean desuno? Explain yourself, Charlotte Dimandius!

– Take it easy, Claire. First of all, can you start to calm down? Even if I repair her sword, I know it is impossible for me to regain its original strength. That's why in that case she will not be able to fight the Savage. Because of that I prepared another thing. Touka-kun, grasp tightly that jewel and try yelling 'Hundred On'.

– Got it.

Grasping tightly the jewel, Touka shouted.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Then the jewel turned into a sword by changing its shape while emitting a radiance.

– I made the sword looking like the one your father made, did you like it? I made it with that as a reference.

– Yeah, the weight, feels pretty much the same! If this is the case, then I can definitely fight the Savage!

While swinging around the sword, she said very happily, and continued.

– ...so, how can I return this jewel to how it was before?

– Just grasp it tightly while focusing your mind in turning it back. Give it a try.

– Got it, I'll try!

When Touka grasps it tightly, the sword returned to the original jewel just as Charlotte said.

– Wow, I did it! I can do it! Thanks, doctor!

– Hahaha, I'm pleased to hear that.

Charlotte has a satisfying expression on her face.

Claire interjected in there.

– Wait a moment, Charlotte Dimandius. What in the world is that desuno?

Claire says so frowning, expressing dubiousness on her face.



– I thought the same. That thing is not a Hundred.

– Apparently they seem to have noticed. As expected from Emilia and Queen-sama. Has anyone else noticed something?

– Nii-san, what on earth is she referring to?

– ...who knows?

Karen asked, and Hayato shrugged his shoulders and turned his left and right palms toward the air. He didn't understand.

– Did you understand, Sakura-san?

Sakura responds to the rejected Karen.

– Er, I didn't understand neither. Did you understand, Souffle?

– I think that the sword of just now is no doubt one made of *Variable Stone*, but I don't know much more than that.

– That's right. That being the case, allow me to gradually expose the details through me. Kenzaki Touka isn't naturally a Slayer. We start with that premise. In effect, the one developed earlier, strictly speaking is not a Hundred.

Charlotte took out the candy from her mouth and began to explain while swinging it like a teaching stick.

– Anyway, regardless of its amount, every human being have a faint *sense energy* flowing in their bodies. It reacts to it and made it to change the shape of the *Variable Stone* as programmed, so to speak, you can call it a sham Hundred.

– That means that she cannot change the shape of the gem besides of the sword, and that she can't deploy E barrier. That's the gist of it. The feeling of incongruity that I felt is that I didn't feel the power of *energy* from that child at all.

– Of course she can't change to Variable Suit to create an armor or reinforcement by pouring *energy* into her weapon. That's why she is not wearing a Variable Suit now.

– If we assume that, then it is just as you said masuno. With that sword alone, we cannot admit her as a fighting strength of Little Garden.

– Wha-, that means is no good?

– Yet, how about dealing with bombardment masuno? It's too dangerous if she doesn't have an E barrier masuwayo.

– To such things, I can dodge them...

– There will be times were avoiding will be impossible, and in the case that you were watching our battle, you should be able to understand desuwa.

– Ugh...

As those words were true, Touka hesitates.

– Charlotte, what on earth are you planning to do desuka? To such a thing, of course that you knew all of this desuwayone.

– Indeed. That's why you guys gathered here today.

– ...? What do you mean desuno?

– What I really wanted to show you was that this sword is not just a trick.

Speaking with the candy once again in her mouth, Charlotte suddenly took out a gun from her pocket.

Emilia inquires reflexively.

– Charo, what is that?

– This is a gun powered by a *Variable Stone* that I made for experiments and it can shoot beams like this.

– ...huh?

Suddenly, everyone in the scene, including Hayato, became speechless. It was because Charlotte shoot the gun pointing at Touka.

– Charlotte, what the hell are you doing...!

– Claire, take a look at her.

– Eh?

Claire turned her eyes to Touka.

– That's...

Not only mentioning Claire who told that when she saw that figure, but including Hayato, and everyone except Charlotte and Mei Mei were with doubt in their eyes.

– What happened, everyone?

Touka, who gazed at them, stood as if nothing had happened, having a vague expression.

– Right now, what was that?

While surprised, Hayato asked.

– That of now, I felt that something like a light hit my body, but it was of no concern at all.

– ....

Hayato and the others had a flabbergasted expression on their faces.

– What do you think, you are surprised, right?

*Wahaha* laughed Charlotte, and continued.

– Actually she has a special constitution, she doesn't receive attacks of *energy*.

– Wha, what did you say!?

– In other words, is it like she is deploying N barriers in this state?

– That's how it is.

– How is that even possible nodesu? I really don't understand.

– Well, even I don't understand it. <<LiZA>> doesn't know the answer either.

An equivalent to what she is saying is that it is not understood by anyone.

– When I looked up the previous data, it seems that her father was similarly close to that, so I think that the possibility of being hereditary is high. In addition, her body has accepted a large number of viruses, but it has completely erased their existence.

– Eh...? Such a thing, is it possible to occur?

When listening to Charlotte's words, Sakura rounded her eyes.

– That’s usually unimaginable, if I have to say. The Savage’s Virus that enters the body will associate with the cells and starts proliferating. Even if it’s a small dose, it is impossible to completely remove large amounts of virus by human function alone. Isn’t that right, Dr. Charlotte?

– Is exactly as Souffle is saying. That’s why I’m also surprised. It’s probably because, even though I want to say occult-like things like if the hate against the Savage is so strong that it is drowning out the existence of the Savage’s Virus. It is really a miracle to say that she is still in a human body.

– Umm, I don’t really understand what you are talking but, is it then okay for me to go out and fight with the Savage, thanks to that N barrier?

Asks Touka.

– What’s your opinion, Queen-sama?

Charlotte waved to Claire.

– Whatever my answer is, you will want to leave Kenzaki Touka in Little Garden, or am I wrong?

Amazed, Claire replies.

*Wahaha* Charlotte laughs, and said.

– Oh well, it’s just like that. She is truly an interesting being. By studying her constitution, there may be the possibility of developing a specific medicine that surely cures people who have suffered from sickness like Karen-kun a while ago.

– ...fine. She is in third year of middle school and is at the age of fourteen. Little Garden does not do something like putting middle school students onto the battlefield. There is still a deferment as to whether or not to put her in the martial arts department, and I am entrusting you the treatment for the time being.

– All right, if that’s what you decide.

Charlotte turned her eyes to Touka.

– Kenzaki Touka. From today on you are a member of Little Garden and a third year student of middle school. Therefore, as soon as preparations are ready, you will be asked to go to the same school as Karen-kun who is there,

agreed?

– Sch, school...

– Is there something wrong?

– No, is just that, the studies are not one of my strong points....

– If it's the case, then Karen-kun will be there to teach you.

– All right!

Touka replied, straightening herself by correcting her posture. Then she turned her body towards Karen and lowered her head.

– I'll be under your care, Karen-sempai!

– Ah! Yeah... treat me well...

Karen answered in a troubled way. As a matter of fact, Karen is not so good at studying.

– After this, that's right. If you are going to discharge from the hospital, then it's indispensable to prepare a house, right? That is pointed to Mei Mei, I've passed that to you so you can manage it in a way or another.

– Yes, I understand. I will do the arrangements immediately.

– Isn't that good, Touka?

– Yup!

Touka hugged tightly at the waist of Hayato.

At that moment, the air in the stadium gets frozen and heavy.

– This is also thanks to Shinshishō. And also, to everyone in Little Garden—.

And then, it seems that Touka finally noticed the change of the surrounding air.

– Mu, what's the matter? Why is that I feel that everyone's gaze is cold...?

Touka is with a blank expression on her face.

Looking at the situation, Charlotte gave a big laugh.

– Well, it looks like things will be more interesting in the future.

\*\*\*

Ten days have passed since the human race surpassed the *Third Attack*. While the world finally settles, and reports of battle results and the damage situations are given by countries and organizations, a secret meeting hosted by the United Nations to distribute the recovered *Variable Stones* and the core of the Savage was held by delegates from major countries, representatives of large corporations and religious organizations called *Seleson*. The representative of Warslan, Judal Harvey, stands at the center of its circular conference center and is taking the spotlight to **make some suggestions**.

It is the same as listening to Vitaly's case, from [A] to [G], a total of seven black screens are lined up in front of him. Basically this conference is carried out hiding everyone but the speaker. Regardless of nationality or affiliation, it is to speak without reservations.

– We humankind endured the raid of the Savage which totaled 312 of them for five days, so we were able to overcome the *Third Attack*.

Breaking the ice, Judal started his speech.

Many dead and injured people came out of it, both Slayers as well as ordinary people, and there were also many destroyed buildings. Still, it is about 1/50 as compared with the damage in the *Second Attack*— only looking at the results, it is no exaggeration to say that this battle is a complete victory of humanity.

– It is thanks to the Hundred, developed by Warslan Company, and the power of the Slayers that manipulate them, as well as new equipment such as *Outer*.

– What are you boasting that all of a sudden?

– So you are trying to say that you want to increase the allocation of the *Variable Stone*, am I right?

Along with suppressed laugh, several jeering sprung suddenly out of nowhere.

– Silence. Please speak after pressing the button at hand.

The letter of [A] of the screen shines. He is identified as the chairman.

– It doesn't matter, chairman. I am not boasting about anything. Even though the Savage attacked in many areas that we were in charge of, there were many

Slayers as victims belonging to Warslan and Little Garden. Because the number of Savages that descended to the ground on the *Third Attack* was not so much as it was at the time of the *Second Attack*, the damage was only suppressed to this degree.

– If that’s true, then what do you want to say?

The screen of the character [D] shined.

– Considering the large scale attacks this time, then before they descend to the ground— what I want to say is, that it is the best to intercept the Savage in outer space.

– So in short, what you are saying is that you want to advance with Project Lunaltia, right?

The letter of [C] shines this time.

– Today I am standing in this place to have a talk about that.

Saying that, Judal continued on his hypothesis.

– The place the Savage appeared, including this *Third Attack*, is a place where strong *sense energy* is released, a place where the reserve quantities of *Variable Stone* is immense. Alternatively, there is data that it is a place where Slayers hold strong *sense energy*. Everyone, please take a look. This is that data.

When Judal said so, in the monitor of each of the seats, as well as in the floating monitor installed at the upper part of the conference hall, it is displayed the location of a map where Savage appeared.

– Certainly, that doesn’t look like that.

Following the voice of confusion rising from everywhere, such as “Is that really true?”, the screen of the character [D] shone again.

– In other words, you are after the core of the Savage and the *Variable Stone*. And if you transfer the majority of the Slayers from the earth to the moon, and then give them strong power there, what you want to say is that they become decoys so you can attract the Savage to the moon?

– In effect. However, this data has not been confirmed yet, and before that are also the anti-Slayer organizations. Please keep this confidential.

Loosening his mouth and smiling, Judal continues his presentation.

In the moon it is easier to generate Hundred than on the earth and, it is also necessary for the study of incurable diseases that are spreading widely on earth since the *First Attack*. It is already proven that Slayers have high adaptability to space in comparison with ordinary humans, can stay long periods of time and there's no problem in migration. And although the population started to decline for the first time with the *Second Attack*, the population is increasing once again, even though thinking that it may become impossible for them to fully cover the earth in the future, the human being should go out into space.

Such preparation informs that Warslan is doing it.

That's why he wants to assign the majority of the Savages' cores and the *Variable Stones* that the United Nations' member countries got at the *Third Attack* to Project Lunaltia. In the *Third Attack*, Warslan did that much work.

That was Judal's proposal of today, which was also a request.

– By the way, appeared more Savage than expected, and it is also speculated that there is a distortion in outer space.

The conjecture is that the Savage will be warping surrounding the earth using that distortion.

– That distortion means that there is a possibility of same scale attacks, no, even large scale attacks in the near future. Considering that time, I believe that you should let the Slayers advance into the moon as soon as possible. In other words, it means that this *Third Attack* may be just the start of a massive invasion by the Savage.

– Hmm, doing so by putting out words that encourage hope and fear, but after all the development of Lunaltia Base isn't an appeal for you to start activities as a politician?

– There's no doubt that you will use the base to rule the moon as an independent nation in the events you become the President, isn't it?

Words emanate from the screen of [E] followed by the screen of [F]. The assembly hall began to be noisy like a catalyst. Among them "It's only the second in charge of that one company" "The social standing of this greenhorn"



“Judal Harvey is beyond his position” etcetera, and so, there are words that can be heard that insult him.

– Can I have a minute to speak?

The screen of letter [B] shined. And so, the assembly hall falls silent.

– Even if the United Nations is reluctant to allocate *Variable Stone* or Savage’s core to Project Lunaltia at this place, Warslan will advance with the development in the moon with its own power. Am I correct, Judal Harvey?

– ...it is just like that.

After a brief silence, Judal replied.

– In any case, we will transfer the <<Key of the New World>> from the earth to Lunaltia Base with our own funds in a few years, and carry our plan forward of *terraforming* in the moon. For that purpose too, we will expand ten times the existing base within one year period and plan to make not only laboratory facilities, but also residential areas so that many Slayers can stay there.

– In short, that means that Warslan will advance the expansion of the moon’s control on their own way.

– That will depend on how you grasp that.

– If you become a politician of Liberia, will it expand further?

– I wonder about that. Whether it is possible to become a politician, that’s something that the people of the United States must decide. It is too early for me to be able to run for Liberia’s member of the lower house in the first place.

Again, the assembly hall got noisy.

There, Judal opens his mouth.

– Of course, there will be people who are holding animosities to us, Warslan, about expanding our control of the moon. That is why I believe that it is best to have the main leadership of Project Lunaltia to the United Nations, I am proposing that on this place. Now, there’s something that I don’t wish for, which is the futile fight among humankind.

– If what you are thinking results to be true, then I will approve of your plan.

At the same time of those words, the screen of letter [B] became transparent. The person who appeared on its own is <<Sacred Church>> current pope of *Puritaria*, Serivia Notre Dame III. Nevertheless, her face couldn't be seen. It is hidden by a thin silk hanging from a high hat as usual.

Then suddenly the screen of the letter [A], the chairman, shined.

– Pope-sama, what is your intention by revealing yourself so abruptly?

– I think that it is an action where there is no need to hide my figure. Because I thought that I should say my opinion, and reveal my affiliation, so I had the privilege of doing it.

– In short, the proposal of Warslan— of Judal Harvey will be supported by *Puritaria*. It's all right with that?

– Yes, exactly. I do not feel a sign at present, but as Judal-san said earlier, “it cannot be said that there it won't be a massive invasion with the distortion in the void of space and the effects of it”.

Along with Serivia's remark facing the chairman's speech, the assembly hall went in uproar.

– Are you perhaps, the so called prophet?

The chairman said.

It is said that the **prophecies of Serivia are true**. She uttered beforehand the signs indicating the *Third Attack* of this occasion.

– It is not to that extent. But, just saying that I do not feel a sign that it is a lie.

Saying that, Serivia continued.

– Since the *First Attack*, every country was far from reaching the space. Therefore, Warslan is the only one that holds the technology for space development under the present circumstances in this world. It is a fact that no one can deny. For this reason, I leave the development of Lunaltia Base itself to Warslan, and about the project, I think that we, *Seleson*, should decide the control of the land in the moon in the parliament.

– Anything to add regarding to Pope-sama's idea?

– Regarding the control of the land, there is a proposal from me.

It was Judal that said so.

– How about deciding it at the World Martial Arts Tournament?

– What!? What the hell are you saying, Judal Harvey!?

It was the screen of [F] who raised the voice.

– Slayers will be primarily living at the moon base and also the ones doing the development will also be Slayers. Therefore, it will be good for organizations with many people that have high ability to have more control of it.

– Isn't that too advantageous for Warslan?

Those are the words that came out from behind the screen of [E].

– But as one of the factors to decide the allocation ratio of *Variable Stone* and Savage's core, the World Martial Arts Tournament was held in a small scale, so was not there a conversation saying whether to decide it even after the *Third Attack*? As I mentioned earlier, there is a possibility that there will be bigger encounters this time and in the future, so this will also improve the ability of Slayers towards them. And there is information that the Savage are intelligent and that are evolving.

– That's true, but we will have to think about changing the rules as it is also involving Project Lunaltia. Have you considered such point?

By the way, the regular martial arts competition is mainly of 1 versus 1 matches, or team versus team battles like the martial arts competition which is done in Little Garden. If it is a battle between organizations, there will be knockout competition of the five players per team and Battle Royal— which is among the one of the many that are among the jindorigassen\*.

***\*TN: Refers to robbing each other's positions and teams in battle. In contemporary Japanese, it is used as the name of children's play. In this case, the children are divided into two, and play is a game that competes with each other for the position and decided place etc. Source: [here](#)***

– Then, I wish everyone to think about it after this.

It was Serivia and not Judal that answered right after the question coming

from the other side of the screen of [E].

– As this is expected to occur in the near future, the Martial Arts Tournament will be an important first step towards the space era, so we should deliberate and debate about it carefully.

– In brief, Pope-sama is agreeing to my plan, am I correct?

– That is correct, as the representatives of the United Nations, I think that the World Martial Arts Tournament is a suitable stage to select organizations and individuals to send to the moon. So I will agree with you.

Judal relaxed his mouth in regards to the words of Serivia.

As a result of the majority vote held at the end of the conference, Judal's proposal passed through Congress by *Seleson* with the help of Serivia and then passed the UN parliament, and as there wasn't any obstacle, the World Martial Arts Tournament was decided to be done in the beginning of the next year.